Hafa Adai!

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FEDERAL COURT ON SAIPAN SAYS

# Labor case vs IPI, its two contractors can proceed

The federal district court on Saipan decided yesterday to allow the forced labor and human trafficking claims of seven Chinese construction workers against casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and its two contractors to proceed.

The case, *Wang, et al. v. Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI), LLC, et al.*, 18 Civ. 0030, involves claims arising from the plaintiffs' work on the Imperial Pacific casino and resort project on Saipan.

The first amended complaint brings claims for forced labor and human trafficking under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act and the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, as well as claims under CNMI law for the physical injuries the plaintiffs suffered on the project.

See LABOR on Page 4



## Man beaten in home invasion

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A man was beaten in a home invasion and burglary over the weekend on Mt. Tapochau, according to the Department of Public Safety.

According to police, three men invaded the Mt. Tapochau home last Sunday and took with them valuable electronics. The men left the owner of the residence, an Asian man, bruised and bloodied. The DPS statement did not identify the victim.

In a short interview with DPS spokesman Adrian Pangelinan, he said that DPS has no suspects at the moment—not even the license plate of the car that was used as a getaway vehicle—because the victim's eyes

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## Govt moves migrant kids after AP exposes bad treatment

By MARTHA MENDOZA and GARANCE BURKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S. government has removed most of the children from a remote Border Patrol station in Texas following reports that more than 300 children were detained there, caring for each other with inadequate food, water and sanitation.

Just 30 children remained at the station outside El Paso Monday, said Rep. Veronica Escobar after her of-

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**NEW ROTARY OFFICERS**
The new officers and directors of the Rotary Club of Saipan are sworn into office by Superior Court Associate Judge Perry Inos during an installation ceremony yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.
REICA RAMIREZ

## INSIDE



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Lion Club International District 204, Region 2, Zone 1 takes part in tree planting campaign.
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Two babies, a toddler and a woman were found dead near the U.S.-Mexican border.
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**LIFE & STYLE**
Rock climber Alex Honnold is trying to get a grip on his sudden fame.
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# Local

## DPS probes alleged marijuana farm in Kagman

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is currently looking into allegations about a marijuana plantation at a home in Kagman, with a police officer recently accused as the owner of the farm.

In an interview with DPS spokesman Adrian Pangelinan, he confirmed that DPS did receive a report about a marijuana plantation in Kagman that allegedly belonged to one of the department's officers.

He said that allegation against the DPS highway patrol officer is being investigated by both the Drug Enforcement Task Force and DPS internal affairs.

Pangelinan chose not to disclose the name of the officer.

He said the investigation of both the residence and the officer is necessary to cover all DPS bases because it is a serious matter.

Pangelinan added that the accused officer was never charged because he said that he does not even live in the residence anymore and no plants were found after a search of the home.

Pangelinan said the department encourages the community to report marijuana plantations by calling DPS dispatch at 911 or the Crime Stoppers hotline.

Although Gov. Ralph DLG Torres already signed the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018 last year, recreational and medicinal marijuana use of marijuana is still considered illegal in the CNMI until regulations are passed.

DPS is working with the members of the Cannabis Commission to release information that would educate the community about the consequences of using or growing marijuana until official regulations are passed.

## Man who attacked cop pleads guilty

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The man who allegedly attacked a police officer while high on butane fumes pleaded guilty to two counts of assault yesterday.

Daniel Jake Kaipat, 26, changed his initial not guilty plea to guilty yesterday before Superior Court Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio.

Kaipat pleaded guilty to two counts of assault and battery, both punishable by a sentence of up to one year in prison. The charge of resisting arrest was dropped.

Kim-Tenorio ordered Kaipat to return to court for a review hearing on Oct. 8.

Kim-Tenorio sentenced Kaipat to two years' incarceration, one for each count that he pleaded guilty to. The sentence would run concurrent with one another, all suspended except for 90 days. Kaipat was given credit for the time he has already served and is scheduled to complete his sentence on July 8.

After Kaipat is released from the Department of Corrections, he will be placed on probation for three years.

While on probation, Kaipat is subject to substance abuse treatment if recommended by the Office of Adult Probation, he is prohibited from residing within 1,000 feet of the victims involved in the case, his mother and brother, and he must comply with curfew and all CNMI laws.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Kaipat swung a knife at a Department of Public Safety officer who was trying to disarm him last April 9.

On that day, police responded to a disturbing the peace complaint at the Marine Beach in Kagman 3 at about 8:21am.

At the scene, police met with the callers, Kaipat's brother and mother, Marciano Kaipat and Josepha Kaipat, who warned police that Kaipat had been inhaling butane fumes and had a knife.

Josepha Kaipat tried to convince her son to give her the knife but Kaipat allegedly refused and pointed the blade tip at her and threatened to stab and kill her.

Police then stepped in and allegedly tried several times to convince Kaipat to cooperate with them but he would not comply and drop the knife.

One of the officers then used pepper spray on Kaipat, who responded by swinging the knife at him. The officer managed to disarm Kaipat with his baton, while another officer restrained Kaipat and brought him to the Department of Corrections.

Marciano Kaipat later told police that he and Kaipat got into an altercation about a guitar earlier that day and Kaipat used his head to hit Mariano's head, choked him, and pushed him.

## USCIS aims to decrease national processing times for N-400, I-485

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will implement a national strategy to decrease differences in processing times based on location for Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, and Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status.

Since the end of 2015, USCIS has experienced an increase in processing times due to higher than expected volumes received during fiscal years 2016 and 2017 that did not decrease as originally projected.

Fiscal year 2017 receipts were up 15.6 percent from fiscal year 2016, and fiscal year 2016 receipts were up 25.5 percent from fiscal year 2015. The increased filing volumes did not affect USCIS field offices equally, which resulted in some disparity in the processing times among field offices.

"As we shift caseloads between field offices to decrease processing times, we may schedule applicants to appear for an interview at a field office outside of their normal jurisdiction," the agency said in a press statement.

Applicants may receive an interview appointment notice or other types of notices (such as a request for evidence) from a field office outside of their normal jurisdiction. However, these caseload changes will not affect where applicants attend their biometrics appointments. "We will still direct them to the nearest application support center," the statement added.

Applicants should follow the instructions on any notices they receive from USCIS.

USCIS remains committed to adjudicating applications, petitions, and requests for immigration benefits as effectively and efficiently as possible in accordance with all applicable laws, policies, and regulations while securing the integrity of the immigration system. ***(PR)***






# No austerity at CPA for now but…

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has yet to adopt the Torres administration's austerity measure to cut employees' work hours from 80 to 72, but CPA is cutting its operations on its own due to reduced revenues.

In an interview last week, CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said they discussed the issue whether or not to adopt the government's austerity measures. However, considering that CPA is an autonomous agency, it can decide whether to follow or not the administration's austerity measures.

King-Hinds said they are not cutting personnel's work hours because CPA has insurance that covers business interruptions. CPA has a total of 209 employees: 156 on Saipan, 29 on Tinian, and 24 on Rota.


King-Hinds

King-Hinds said they are going to use the insurance funds to make up for the shortage of revenues.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio has informed the board that CPA received $9 million from their insurance company last June 14.

Tenorio said $1.12 million of the amount is for business interruption and the remaining are for damage from Super Typhoon Yutu.

King-Hinds said the Federal Aviation Administration required CPA to get insurance, which really helped them after Yutu's devastation last October. As part of that insurance, in the event of a catastrophe like a typhoon, CPA gets coverage for loss of business interruption and for the damage.

"CPA has received the amount [and] that has been able to she disclosed that Yutu's financial impact on CPA was a 15-percent reduction in revenue.

For the moment, King-Hinds said, CPA is not cutting employees' hours, but they are internally cutting operations on other areas.

**»10-pct. cut in operations as revenue drops by 15 pct.**

"We…try as much as possible not to touch personnel. And so we found other areas within the agency to cut," she added.

In terms of operations, CPA cut 10 percent of everybody's budget. There is a restriction on travel and a freeze on any hiring, unless it is critical.

Last June 17, the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors agreed to cut the regular 80 work hours of its 36 employees in the CNMI, including its managing director, Priscilla Maratita Iakopo, to 72. It took effect last June Sunday.

By July, the MVA board will meet again to decide whether there is a need to maintain the 72 hours or go further down at 64 hours.

Under the new work-hour cuts, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres reduced the operations of offices under the Executive Branch, starting with the June 23 pay period. Agencies will be closed every payday Friday beginning on July 5 until further notice.

## House panel adopts key budget provisions

The House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee has adopted key provisions of the CNMI budget bill that are primarily intended to benefit education and health in the Commonwealth, including taking a look at possibly implementing a universal health care system here.

Committee member Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said the panel adopted language that would require the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. to submit a report to the Legislature on a feasibility study of having a universal health insurance model for the CNMI.

"[CHCC would also be required to] present policy options the Legislature might consider to address the long-standing problem of uncompensated care," she said.

"A substantial percentage of our community is both low-income and uninsured, and CHCC is mandated to provide care to everyone who comes in for treatment, regardless of their ability to pay," she said. "We all have an interest in expanding health coverage and ensuring that CHCC is adequately compensated for services rendered."

The House will be holding a special session at 2:45pm tomorrow to discuss and pass the budget bill, House Bill 21-64.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), also adopted a recommendation by the minority bloc to appropriate at least $6 million to the Northern Marianas College, with the latest version of the draft bill identifying slightly over that amount of budgetary resources for the CNMI's lone public community college.

Aside from requiring agencies and departments to submit fund status reports at the end of each quarter, the bill also contains language that redirects the unencumbered balance of the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor's 1 percent fee at the end of the 2019 fiscal year to CHCC, NMC, the State Public School System, Medical Referral program, and the Settlement Fund.

The agencies and department expenditures, reprogramming activities, and payment of the OPA's 1 percent fee are included in the status reports. The committee also agreed on language that would allow CHCC, NMC, and PSS to utilize their appropriated funds without fiscal year limitations. Stronger penalties will be levied against department that spend beyond their budget limits.

Another committee recommendation is that expenditure authorities who violate spending limits shall not be entitled to indemnification under the Government Liability Act or reimbursement.

Sablan said the minority bloc also recommended adding FTEs for a specialty courts coordinator and a compliance officer for the drug court program as the Judiciary asked for when they faced the Ways and Means Committee last month.

The minority also recommended that the reprogramming guidelines of the Planning and Budgeting Act be applied; they opposed granting unlimited reprogramming powers to expenditure authorities.

"The latest version of the House budget bill does not provide unlimited reprogramming authority and, in fact, we adopted a new provision, proposed by the majority, that requires the governor [to submit a] 15-day notice to the Legislature prior to exercising any reprogramming authority under the law," Sablan said.

The minority supported the provisions recommended by the majority on a language that would grant the Legislature's fiscal analysts access to Finance's records system. "So that we may independently draw our own data and generate our own financial reports without having to rely on the administration to respond to requests for information," said Sablan.

This is what Rep. Joel C. Camacho (R-Saipan) had pushed for—that the Legislature provides funding for the Legislative Bureau with the director being the expenditure authority. He said the language that they adopted was to give their fiscal analysts training and access to the JDA software where it would provide better data gathering and obtaining financial information since the Legislature appropriates the money.

Aside from Sablan, the other minority member on the committee is Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota). ***(Jon Perez)***

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# Kilili: NMI eligible for reconstruction funds

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Money to fund reconstruction of facilities and other infrastructure that were damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu are readily available to the CNMI based on Public Law 116-20, the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019.

P.L. 116-20 was introduced by New York Democrat Rep. Nita M. Lowey as H.R. 268. President Donald J. Trump signed H.R. 268 into law early this month—a move that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the people in the Commonwealth greatly appreciates. Several Republicans in the U.S. Congress tried to block the passage of the bill but garnered a 354-58 vote in the House and an 85-5 margin in the Senate.

Sablan said his office in Washington D.C., has done its share in helping the bill clear its hurdles in order for it to reach the desk of Trump at the White House.

"Public Law 116-20 contains over $129 million in set-asides we added specifically for the Marianas and makes our islands one of the disaster areas eligible to apply for billions in reconstruction funding," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

"The congressional office has been at work since the days immediately after Super Typhoon Yutu to get the Marianas covered by this recovery bill. And our work continues, making sure that set-aside funds get to the Marianas quickly and help the Commonwealth access the other grants for which we are eligible," he added.

P.L. 116-20 appropriates $19 billion in federal aid and provides all U.S. jurisdictions,—both states and territories—with funds to recover after being hit by natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, storms, typhoons, and wildfires.

The law also provides medical assistance where Sablan said the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services already released almost $15 million for the CNMI last week, Thursday. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released the first $14,278,981 of the $36,000,000 set-aside for the Marianas Medicaid program, he said.

Sablan added the grant award documentation was already sent to CNMI Medicaid Agency administrator Helen Sablan. "Ms. Sablan made the case for future Medicaid funding at a hearing of the Subcommittee on Health of the Energy and Commerce Committee. She and I also discussed the disaster funding and how to use it quickly at the hearing."

P.L. 116-20 could give the CNMI additional disaster relief funding of $129.6 million where it will be available through Community Development Block Grants-Disaster Recovery Grants, and other federal grants.

At least $50 million is expected from the CDBG-DR, aside from the $100 million already allocated to the CNMI from previous legislation that was passed last year.




Protesters hold an inflatable doll in the likeness of President Donald Trump outside of the Homestead Temporary Shelter for Unaccompanied Children, Sunday, June 16, 2019, in Homestead, Fla. AP

## GOVT

*From Page 1*

fice was briefed on the situation by an official with Customs and Border Protection.

Attorneys who visited Clint last week said older children were trying to take care of infants and toddlers, The Associated Press first reported Thursday. They described a 4-year-old with matted hair who had gone without a shower for days, and hungry, inconsolable children struggling to soothe one another. Some had been locked for three weeks inside the facility, where 15 children were sick with the flu and another 10 were in medical quarantine.

"How is it possible that you both were unaware of the inhumane conditions for children, especially tender-age children at the Clint Station?" asked Escobar in a letter sent Friday to U.S. Customs and Border Protection acting commissioner John Sanders and U.S. Border Patrol chief Carla Provost.

She asked to be informed by the end of this week what steps they're taking to end "these humanitarian abuses."

Lawmakers from both parties decried the situation last week.

Border Patrol officials have not responded to AP's questions about the conditions at the Clint facility, but in an emailed statement Monday they said: "Our short-term holding facilities were not designed to hold vulnerable populations and we urgently need additional humanitarian funding to manage this crisis."

Although it's unclear where all the children held at Clint have been moved, Escobar said some were sent to another facility on the north side of El Paso called Border Patrol Station 1. Escobar said it's a temporary site with roll-out mattresses, showers, medical facilities and air conditioning.

But Clara Long, an attorney who interviewed children at Border Patrol Station 1 last week, said conditions were not necessarily better there.

"One boy I spoke with said his family didn't get mattresses or blankets for the first two nights, and he and his mom came down with a fever," said Long, a senior researcher with Human Rights Watch. "He said there were no toothbrushes, and it was very, very cold."

Vice President Mike Pence, asked about the unsafe, unsanitary conditions for the children on "Face the Nation" on Sunday, said "it's totally unacceptable," adding that he hopes Congress will allocate more resources to border security.

Long and a group of lawyers inspected the facilities because they are involved in the Flores settlement, a Clinton-era legal agreement that governs detention conditions for migrant children and families. The lawyers negotiated access to the facility with officials and say Border Patrol knew the dates of their visit three weeks in advance.

Many children interviewed had arrived alone at the U.S.-Mexico border, but some had been separated from their parents or other adult caregivers including aunts and uncles, the attorneys said.

Government rules call for children to be held by the Border Patrol in their short-term stations for no longer than 72 hours before they are transferred to the custody of Health and Human Services, which houses migrant youth in facilities around the country through its Office of Refugee Resettlement while authorities determine if they can be released to relatives or family friends.

Customs and Border Protection has referred AP's questions to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which said Monday that 249 children who had been held at Clint would be moved to the agency's network of shelters and other facilities by Tuesday.

"(Unaccompanied children) are waiting too long in CBP facilities that are not designed to care for children," ORR spokeswoman Evelyn Stauffer said. "These children should now all be in HHS care as of Tuesday."

## MAN

*From Page 1*

were in pain from the beating.

The victim was only able to describe one suspect as dark-skinned, with a skinny build, and wearing a red T-shirt and a pair of black short pants. He was unable to see the other suspects as his eyes were in pain, but he did mention that the individuals drove away in a white colored SUV, which looked like a Kia Soul.

At about 3:27am last Sunday, DPS received a call reporting a burglary and assault with a deadly weapon at a Mt. Tapochau residence and officers were immediately dispatched to the scene.

At about 3:41am, officers arrived at the scene and met with an individual who claimed to be the caller.

Officers noticed that the individual had a bloody nose and swollen eyes. Officers then called DPS central to have medics proceed to the scene.

The individual, an Asian male, told officers that three men came into his residence and took a black Acer laptop and a flatscreen television as he was in his bedroom.

The victim stated that his injuries were from one of the individuals, who hit him with a rock during a foot chase outside the home.

For anyone who may have any information related to the incident, call 911. For those who wish to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

The last reported home invasion on Saipan was back in May at a home in San Vicente, where a woman and a teenage male were beaten unconscious by an unknown masked individual.

DPS is still looking into the home invasion in San Vicente.

## LABOR

*From Page 1*

Plaintiffs are seeking monetary compensation for their injuries and pain and suffering, as well as punitive damages. Each of these claims is brought against the three defendants in the case: Imperial Pacific International, MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co., and Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI), LLC.

Imperial Pacific International is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Hong Kong-based company, Imperial Pacific International Holdings Limited.

MCC International Saipan is alleged to be a subsidiary of a Chinese state-owned conglomerate and was a contractor on the project.

Gold Mantis, another contractor on the project, is alleged to be the subsidiary of a company traded on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

On April 30, 2019, the defendants filed motions to dismiss the various claims against them. However, in a decision dated June 24, 2019, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied all of the defendants' motions. The court found that "...plaintiffs have stated a plausible [forced labor] claim against each defendant."

Each of the three defendants must file an answer to the first amended complaint within 14 days.

The seven construction workers are represented by Bruce Berline of Berline & Associates, LLC, a law firm on Saipan, and Aaron Halegua of Aaron Halegua, PLLC, a law firm in New York City.

Halegua issued the following statement in response to the decision: "We are glad that the plaintiffs, who have already suffered so much, are one step closer to having their day in court." ***(PR)***

# MVA seeks new representative office in S. Korea

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

## » Contract with longtime MVA marketing company cancelled

The Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors gave the go-signal yesterday for the agency to look for another marketing firm that will sell the CNMI in South Korea after cancelling the contract of a previous contractor due to what it deemed as its poor performance.

MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo informed the board at their last meeting that there was a request to provide a draft of the request for proposal for an MVA offshore office in Korea. MVA board member Viola Alepuyo asked Iakopo to provide a summary of the RFP so members of the public are aware of what is contained in the RFP.

Iakopo then announced that the MVA is soliciting for proposals from interested individuals or companies to provide the MVA with representation, promotional and public relation service in South Korea.

The contract will be for two years, with an option to renew for an additional two-year period and one additional one-year period, for a total of five years, at the sole discretion of MVA.

Alepuyo then moved to approve the issuance of the RFP. All directors present approved it at a meeting yesterday. Acting board chair Gloria Cavanagh presided over the meeting. The other directors present were Alepuyo, Chris Nelson, Agida Quitugua, and Nick Nishikawa.

In a later interview, Cavanagh disclosed that they decided at a board meeting last May 3 to cancel the contract with AVIAREPS Marketing Garden effective Sept. 30, 2019, because they are not satisfied with the company's performance for the Korea market.

The contract with AVIAREPS Marketing Garden was also a two-year contract, with an option to renew for another two years.

"But because of the performance, we decided to cancel the contract," she said, adding that the contract with AVIAREPS was supposed to expire on Sept. 30, 2020.

Cavanagh said the MVA board has actually been in talks with the MVA management for quite some time now about the need to cancel the contract.

AVIAREPS has been under contract with MVA since the late 1990s. It manages MVA's marketing efforts in Korea, Taiwan, and Russia.

MVA's Russia offshore will be closed effective June 30, 3019.

MVA recently disclosed that, for the month of May this year, Korea had another month of steady recovery since Super Typhoon Yutu last October, posting 17,750 visitor arrivals and retaining its position as the top performing source market for the CNMI.

However, MVA said, due to the downsizing of Asiana Airlines' aircraft and the decreased frequency of three air services—T'way Air's and Jeju Air's night service from Incheon and Busan—arrivals from Korea is 20 percent lower overall compared to May 2018.




Acting Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Gloria Cavanagh, extreme left, presides over a board meeting Monday in which they approved the issuance of a request for proposals from interested companies to provide the promotional services for the MVA in the Republic of Korea.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

# All claims of ex-Dynasty workers against Mega Stars are dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed without prejudice Friday all the claims of 15 former foreign workers of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino against the Mega Stars Overseas Ltd., the company that was managing the Dynasty just before it closed.

This means the former foreign workers of the Tinian Dynasty may re-file the lawsuit against Mega Stars in the future.

Manglona ordered the dismissal after the 15 plaintiffs, through their counsel Samuel Mok, notified the court Friday that they don't object to dismissing all their claims against Mega Stars.

With the dismissal, Manglona nullified her order that directed the workers to explain why she should not drop their claims against Mega Stars considering that she had already entered a default judgment against Tinian Dynasty's owner, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Limited.

The court's clerk was directed to close the case.

Mok said they do not object to the dismissal but asked that the dismissal, be made such that they can re-file the claims in the future.

Mok said his clients may pursue a joint-employer theory of liability against Mega Stars for the claims previously asserted in their complaint.

Mok said the plaintiffs have not yet come to a consensus on whether to pursue such a claim at this time.

The default judgment entered last June 7 awarded the 15 former foreign workers $800,168 in compensatory and punitive damages in connection with their lawsuit against HKE and Mega Stars.

Manglona found HKE liable to pay them as to their claims for fraudulent concealment and wrongful termination.

The plaintiffs sued HKE and Mega Stars for allegedly lying to them that they were legally authorized to work, despite the denial of their CW-1 petitions.

Majority of the 15 plaintiffs have lived in the CNMI for many years and have children who are U.S. citizens.

The plaintiffs asked the court to issue a default judgment holding HKE and Mega Stars liable to pay them $4.2 million in damages.

Both HKE and Mega Stars previously defaulted in this case and did not appear at the May 9, 2019 hearing, although they have been notified.

Tinian Dynasty's casino operation stopped in August 2015. The hotel operation halted in March 2016.

# Administration ready for today's outreach

The Torres administration's public outreach presentation is set for today, June 26, to accommodate additional presenters and federal officials who will be on island to further explain recovery goals and economic solutions following the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Members of the public are invited to view presentations from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Marianas Visitors Authority, the Department of Finance, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Planning and Development on the administration's overall recovery priorities, the decision to reduce spending in order to stabilize government finances, and to discuss a path forward and solutions for the community.

Presentations will be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center today, June 26, at 5:30pm.

The public outreach will also be streamed live on the CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook page through a collaboration between the Northern Marianas College, IT&E CNMI, and the Governor's Office. ***(PR)***

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INSTALLMENT AVAILABLE

# Clearing of Garapan storm drains, shoulders starts

Starting yesterday, June 25, Department of Public Works workers and other agency staff began the process of clearing out the Garapan core area storm drains.

Saipan's storm drain system is designed to reduce flooding, infrastructure damage, and health risks by safely carrying rainwater off of streets and residential/commercial lots. Many of these drains have been habitually blocked by litter, sediment, and other debris, which has inhibited the system leading to minor flooding and standing water in some areas during rains.

DPW, the Division of Environmental Quality, the Coral Reef Management Office, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Servises, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. have partnered and pooled their resources to ensure that this much needed maintenance of the storm water system can be completed as soon as possible. The hope is that by partnering, the agencies can guarantee that this maintenance is done annually to prevent the situation we are now in.

Additionally, the team will be clearing the shoulders and right-of-ways of excess sediment and overhanging vegetation, as these are often the sources of drain blockage. This work should help decrease the likelihood of follow-up maintenance prior to that planned next year.

The partnering agencies would like to ask the community for their patience as they conduct this work. Some heavy machinery and staff will at times take up traffic lanes and otherwise slow traffic through the project area. Motorists are encouraged to be extra vigilant over the next several weeks to ensure their safety and the safety of the workers as the maintenance is conducted.

The public is further asked for their cooperation in keeping these drains clear. Litter and other debris placed in the drains or on the roads or shoulders can cause blockages in the system and lead to road and property flooding that causes a safety and/or health risk to the surrounding community. All of the storm drains lead directly to the Saipan lagoon; no liquids or materials other than rainwater should be put into storm drains, as this can lead to poor water quality, contaminated beaches, and/or damage to fish and coral populations. ***(PR)***



**MPLT MEETING** JON PEREZ

Marianas Public Land Trust acting chair Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, center, listens as MPLT trustee Pedro Deleon Guerrero, right, discusses a point in Monday's meeting at their office on Capital Hill. At left is MPLT legal counsel Robert Torres.

## EPA awards $1.96M to BECQ

**SAN FRANCISCO**—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded $1.96 million to the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to strengthen its capacity to protect human health and the environment.

"The CNMI government has been a great partner in environmental protection," said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Mike Stoker**.** "We are pleased to support the CNMI BECQ, which is committed to achieving a better environment for all the residents of CNMI."

BECQ uses EPA funding to support inspections, emergency responses, radon assessments, coral reef protection, monitoring of beaches and water quality, drinking water improvements, cleanups of contaminated lands and polluted streams, and support for safe use of pesticides.

"The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality through its Division of Environmental Quality has developed a strong partnership with the…EPA in the development and implementation of environmental programs that aims to protect public health and the environment of the CNMI," said CNMI BECQ administrator Eli Cabrera. "The continued funding support and technical assistance from the EPA has been pivotal in the enhancement of DEQ's environmental programs and the capacity-building trainings that have broaden[ed] the capability DEQ's personnel in all areas of environmental protection."

BECQ extend its appreciation on behalf of the CNMI for EPA's support in the response and recovery from the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu.

The EPA's Pacific Southwest Region (Region 9) administers and enforces federal environmental laws in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands, and 148 tribal nations—home to more than 50 million people. ***(PR)***

## EPA completes cleanup following Yutu

**HONOLULU**—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and the Mayor's Office of Saipan and Tinian, has completed its mission to remove oil and hazardous waste and restore water supplies on Saipan and Tinian following Super Typhoon Yutu.

EPA's work, which cost about $30 million, was authorized and funded by Federal Emergency Management Agency-issued mission assignments in early November 2018.

"EPA was able to successfully complete this mission and help these communities recover following this devastating typhoon," said EPA Pacific Southwest regional administrator Mike Stoker.

Following a natural disaster, oil, hazardous materials, and other types of waste require special handling and disposal, particularly if they are compromised. Proper handling and disposal reduce potential threats to public health and safety, allow for a safe rebuilding process, and keep these wastes out of marine waters, landfills, and dump sites. In addition to removing hazardous waste, EPA assisted agencies in sampling drinking water and provided technical assistance for wastewater operations and water supply restoration.

EPA collected, sampled, consolidated, shipped, and disposed of over 31,000 items of electronic waste, white goods such as refrigerators and washers, and hazardous wastes from schools and public buildings. BECQ and other stakeholders conducted curbside pickup of hazardous materials such as paints, solvents, herbicides, e-waste, appliances and other goods from residential properties while EPA operated public waste drop-off locations for these items. Residential collection and drop-off stations collected over 42,000 items for disposal.

EPA also collected 1,263 damaged electric transformers on Saipan and 184 on Tinian and sent most of the associated materials for recycling. In addition, EPA excavated contaminated soil associated with transformer spills at 260 locations on Saipan and 63 locations on Tinian. In total, EPA transported 193 shipping container of waste material off island for appropriate recycling and/or disposal.

EPA also worked closely with the local government to restore drinking water supplies affected by the storm. EPA provided field support and laboratory supplies and assessed the operational conditions of water delivery systems on Saipan and Tinian. Drinking water assessments were done at mass care shelters, 17 bottling and ice companies, over 70 private water systems, and 176 restaurants and food establishments, and included the collection of over 800 water samples to assure water was not contaminated by coliform or E. coli. EPA also conducted damage assessments of 20 water storage tanks operated by CUC.

For additional information, including maps and photos, visit www.epa.gov/typhoonyuturesponse. ***(PR)***


**Northern Marianas College**
**Procurement & Property Management Office**
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6804
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**NMC RFP 19-002**

**NMC CREES AQUACULTURE FACILITY PROJECT**

Northern Marianas College is soliciting sealed proposal for the renovation, repair and Design and Build of CREES Aquaculture Facility, As Terlaje Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O-1 commencing Wednesday, June 19, 2019, between the hours of 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Proposal Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., July 19, 2019,** at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. O-1, Administrative Services Office, Saipan, MP 96950.

For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the RFP via email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Mandatory pre-proposal meeting and Site Inspection: July 03, 2019 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Building J, CREES Conference room.

Discussion may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers.

NMC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and/or to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole discretion, to do so will be in the best interest of the College. All proposals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**
Jose M. Sablan Building, Civic Center Susupe, P.O. Box 500791 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 664-9001 Facsimile: (670) 664-9019

Ralph D.L.G. Torres, Governor
Arnold I. Palacios, Lieutenant Governor
Robert A. Guerrero, Commissioner

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that all vehicles that were impounded by the Department of Public Safety up until the time of this notice will be released to their owners at no charge. You may pick up your vehicle within 30 days of the date of this notice. Vehicles impounded as part of an ongoing investigation will not be released without prior clearance from the Office of the Attorney General and/or the CNMI Courts.

All charges related to the impounding of the vehicle, with the exception of towing fees charged by an outside company, will be waived. Any vehicle that is not claimed within the 30 day time period will be considered abandoned and may be sold and/or disposed of by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Government.

The vehicle may be retrieved by the following:

1) Legal Owner;
2) Registered Owner;
3) A person authorized by the registered owner on a form provided by the Department of Public Safety;
4) Any person in possession of a court order requiring the release of the vehicle.

***You will need valid personal identification and proof of vehicle ownership before you will be permitted to retrieve your vehicle. Please contact the DPS Impound Lot at 322-5421 or Sgt. Roy Kaipat at 285-5599 to make the necessary arrangements.***



MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THWE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANAS ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 I FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Plaintiff, -v- RAMON S. DELA CRUZ and REBECCA B. DELA CRUZ Defendants. ) CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0410

**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
YOU HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer n accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated June 19, 2019 by order of the Court
/s/
Clerk of Court

# DPS: Talens died of natural causes

The maintenance worker at the Horiguchi building in Garapan who passed away last Friday died of natural causes, according to the Department of Public Safety.

In a short interview with DPS spokesman Adrian Pangelinan, he said Reuben Talens died of natural causes, citing a police report that states that the man collapsed inside the Horiguchi building before dispatch was called.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Talens, who is a maintenance personnel at the Horiguchi building, passed away after collapsing while at the building's electrical room last Friday afternoon.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Talens, who was in his 60s, was with a co-worker and two court security officers inside the electrical room on the building's ground floor when the incident happened.

Talens injured his head in the fall, according to a witness.

The witness said he and Talens were both relaxing inside a small room in the electrical room when Talens stood up and suddenly fell. Security officers then called 911. An ambulance arrived and brought Talens to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Prior to this, Talens had a mild stroke, according to his co-workers.

Talens used to serve as a basketball referee on Saipan. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

## MINA tree planting campaign heads to Sugar Dock

**By MARC VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance, or MINA, will be hosting its seventh tree planting campaign at the Sugar Dock this Saturday. The tree planting will be from 9am to 11am.

The "Bring Back Our Trees" campaign was set to begin in the fall of 2018. However, Super Typhoon Yutu devasted the CNMI and the campaign was put on hold. The project finally began last May 18, after being approved by the Office of Insular Affairs.

This campaign aims to support the growth and re-growth of native plants and trees. This event will also encourage climate change resiliency, help prevent sedimentation, and further degradation of the reefs. The tree saplings are provided by CNMI Forestry,

MINA's goal is to plant 100 to 200 trees in two years, and will focus is on areas that lost the largest number of trees during Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 and Typhoon Soudelor in 2015.

The final leg of the tree planting campaign will involve the offices of Precinct 2 Reps. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) and Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan).

Water, gloves, and tools will be provided to campaign participants, but they are allowed to bring their own materials.

The most recent tree planting campaign happened last Sunday at San Isidro Beach Park, or Laly 4, which was participated in volunteers of the Lion Club International District 204, Region 2, Zone 1 group.

Other areas that MINA and its partners covered were Tanapag Beach Park, Beach Road, Laolao Bay, San Antonio Beach Park, and the Garapan Fishing Base

MINA also credits its partners at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources Parks and Recreation, Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services for providing support.

For more information, contact MINA at (670) 233-7333 (REEF), or email minaoutreach@gmail.com.



Lion's Club volunteers plant new native tree during last Sunday's "Bring Back Our Trees" campaign at San Isidro Beach Park.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Lions Club International District 204, Region 2 and other volunteers pose for a picture after last Sunday's "Bring Back Our Trees" campaign at San Isidro Park.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday, great-grandma Carmen Rebuenog! You make 63 look so good. With love, Frantina and Maria.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**
**Commonwealth Judiciary**
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 • Facsimile (670) 236-9797

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB19-JUDICIARY-02**
**GUMA' HUSTISIA SKYLIGHT PROJECT**

The Judiciary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("Judiciary") is soliciting sealed bids for its Skylight Project at the Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice building ("Guma' Hustisia"), located at Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. This project involves the demolition of existing skylights and its replacement with concrete caps and skylights.

A copy of the bid package may be obtained by visiting the Accounting Services Unit's Cashier Window, located next to the main entrance to the Guma' Hustisia, between **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, Monday to Friday, excluding observed holidays, upon registration completion. The bid package also contains architectural-engineering drawings and specifications that must be retrieved online at www.justice.gov.mp. For website issues preventing access, please contact Budget and Finance Director John T. Villagomez at john.villagomez@justice.gov.mp. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the bid package will be assessed. Payment must be made payable to the CNMI Judiciary upon registration and bid package retrieval. Payment may be made by visiting the Accounting Services Unit Cashier Window.

Sealed bids, containing one (1) original and three (3) copies must be placed in an envelope marked "ITB19-Judiciary-02, Skylight Project," and submitted in person to the Accounting Services Unit Cashier Window, located next to the Guma' Hustisia's main entrance, Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. on July 8, 2019 (ChSt).**

Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference. A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on June 26, 2019 at the Judiciary's Supreme Court conference room located at the Guma' Hustisia.

**Bid Opening. Bids will be publicly opened and read at** 3:00 p.m. on July 8, 2019, at the Judiciary's conference room located at the Guma' Hustisia.

Bid Security. A *Bid Security* of fifteen (15%) of the total bid price must accompany bids. Bid security must be in a bid bond, in cash, by certified check or cashier's check. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. *If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).* (ICC may take up to 5 business days).

Bonds. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred percent (100%) and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price must be furnished by the successful bidder within five (5) business days of contract execution. The Payment and Performance bonds must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").

Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC). Bidders shall submit a clearance from the CNMI Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Surety Questions. Questions and concerns on authorized Surety must be directed to the OIC.

Project Questions. All questions regarding ITB19-Judiciary-02 must be submitted via email to Budget and Finance Director John T. Villagomez at john.villagomez@justice.gov.mp by 12:00 p.m. on June 27, 2019. Responses will be provided to all registered, potential bidders via email no later than July 2, 2019.

Performance Period. The performance period for this project is sixty (60) calendar days, beginning with the date a Notice to Proceed is issued.

All bids received shall become the sole property of the Judiciary. The Judiciary reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Judiciary.

Bidding procedures will be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

/s/ John T. Villagomez
Budget & Finance Director

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**RFP NO.: DPW/VAO19-RFP-005**

**SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 16, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CNMI VETERANS CEMETARY EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"**

*THE RFP PACKAGE AND SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **JUNE 12, 2019** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, 2ND FLOOR, OLEAI COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN. A NON-REFUNDABLE PAYMENTOF FIFTY DOLLARS ($50.00) IS REQUIRED FOR EACH SET. PAYMENT MUST BE MADE TO THE CNMI TREASURER AND A RECEIPT OF PAYMENT MUST BE PRESENTED WHEN OBTAINING THE SCOPE OF WORL AT THE DPW TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION.*

**QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR. ANTHONY A. CAMACHO, DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION**, 2ND FLOOR OLEAI COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN **NO LATER THAN 04:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JULY 08, 2019**.

A **PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE** IS SCHEDULED FOR **10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 26, 2019** AT THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR CONFERENCE ROOM, 1ST FLOOR, JUAN A. SABLAN MEMORIAL BUIDLING.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JAMES A. ADA**
**SECRETARY, DPW**

**/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.**
**ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS**

**/S/JOAQUIN S. REYES**
**ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S**

# DLNR: Coconut rhino beetles on Rota are contained

By MARC VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The infestation of coconut rhinoceros beetles on Rota has been "well contained," according to Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente, despite the destruction caused by Typhoon Mangkhut late last year on the island.

"The process of intervention and eradication is doing good," Benavente said.

He is thankful that the rhino beetle population has not spread to the other parts of Rota and hopes it stays that way.

A small population of the beetles, also called CRB, was discovered near the former Paupau Hotel, which is above the Tweeksberry Beach Park on Rota.

The DLNR Rota CRB team has set up a total of 15 new traps around the island in order to contain the bettles. These traps are made of chopped coconut tree stumps with leaves surrounding it.

The DLNR Rota CRB team has also been looking for breeding and nesting grounds in order to eradicate the CRB population.

Rota is, however, not out of the woods just yet. "I can say that they are still present…but majority of the findings are not as much as it was before," Benavente said.

Coconut rhinoceros beetles are nocturnal, or night living, creatures that fly onto coconuts and drink the coconut's juices. They breed on the coconut's soft upper cone, killing the tree. A female CRB can lay a maximum of 50 eggs.

Benavente said the DLNR Rota CRB team found over 30 larvae in one of the breeding sites. Last June 11 at 8pm, the team captured one adult female CRB in one of the traps.

Tweeksberry Beach Park is a considered a common site for CRB's because of the large number of coconut trees in the area.







**PINNING CEREMONY** NMC

Northern Marianas College nursing graduates pose for a group photo with NMC's executive leaders after the Nursing Pinning Ceremony that was held last Saturday, June 22, 2019, at the Pacific Islands Club. The graduating nursing students, together with students from other degree programs, will be graduating this Saturday, June 29, 2019, at NMC's 39th commencement exercise at the Koblerville Gymnasium at 4pm.









## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### June 26, 2000

#### DPH reminds public to handle food safely

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez has urged the public to carry out safe food handling practices to prevent any possible outbreak of food-borne diseases on the island following a recent food poisoning that downed almost 100 people. The health secretary reminded the people that potentially hazardous food (meat, seafood, eggs, dairy products and poultry) can only be placed in the danger zone within a limited time period. Never leave food, whether raw or cooked, in the "temperature danger zone" from 40 degrees Fahrenheit to 140 degrees Fahrenheit for more than four hours. He urged the public to wash their hands thoroughly before preparing food, every interruption in preparing food, and immediately after using the toilet.

#### Curfew hours reinforced for minors

The Division of Youth Services, along with the Department of Public Safety Juvenile section, is keeping a close watch on curfew violators around the Garapan area in fresh efforts to curb crimes and misdemeanors committed by juveniles especially during the nightly Liberation Day carnival. DYS Juvenile Probation Supervisor Sylvio Ada has underscored the need to crack down on minors who stay way beyond curfew hours without parental guidance. The law enforcement team has been tasked by lawmakers to monitor not only activities at the Liberation Day carnival but also at the Garapan Street Market every Thursdays. Over the past weekends, DYS and DPS have apprehended minors between the age of 14 to 17 wandering around Saipan streets unaccompanied by their parents.

### June 26, 2004

#### NMI, Indon agency agree to widen areas of cooperation

The Commonwealth and Indonesian government agency agreed Friday to provide liaison and coordination at least through the end of 2005 in hopes to develop the relationship of the two countries. In a brief ceremony yesterday, Gov. Juan N. Babauta, North Sulawesi Planning Bureau head Alex J. Wowor, and Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Small Island Development director Alex S.W. Retraubun signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the CNMI and the Republic of Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Province of North Sulawesi that underscored five points.

#### CUC seeks USDA loan for wastewater outfall

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is applying for a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund the construction of an ocean outfall that would discharge effluent from the Agingan Point Wastewater Treatment Plant. Once the CUC obtains the loan, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it would set the schedule within the wastewater treatment facility should be back into compliance with environmental regulations. The construction of the outfall is estimated to cost about $5 million, according to EPA Region 9 wastewater expert Mike Lee.

### June 26, 2005

#### MPLT offers CUC $10M guaranty

The Marianas Public Land Trust has offered the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. a $10-million guaranty to be given directly to Mobil Oil Marianas Inc. for use in CUC's fuel supply contract with the oil company. Acting MPLT chair Herman R. Guerrero made the proposal to CUC on Friday, in response to CUC's request for MPLT to give a guaranty that CUC could use in negotiating a $10 million line of credit from Bank of Guam. Guerrero pointed out that by taking MPLT's offer, CUC would not be incurring multiple fees and would minimize transaction costs. He added that MPLT's offer would provide CUC 0.4-percent savings over the rate charged by Bank of Guam. Mobil has required CUC to secure a $10-million guaranty or line of credit as part of the contract.

#### OPA halts probe on CUC bid protest

The Office of the Public Auditor has temporarily halted the investigation of a protest filed by a bidder against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., following the governor's May 19 state of emergency declaration. The bid protest filed by the Commonwealth Industrial Supply Co. Inc. was still pending before OPA when the governor issued the declaration, which among other things, suspended CUC's procurement and other regulations. CISCO is protesting CUC's decision to award a contract to a foreign company, saying the winning bidder did not follow bid requirements and should have been disqualified.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Time management training today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions will be hosting a training on time management at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315) today, June 26, from 9am to 12pm. Registration fee is $50 per person for Chamber members and $55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required as seating is limited. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email coordinator2@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

### Liberation Day festivities kick off tomorrow

The CNMI Liberation Day festivities will kick off tomorrow, June 27, at 6pm, at the Garapan Fishing Base's Liberation carnival grounds. This year's theme is "Marianas Strong." The festivities will run from Thursday through July 6, 2019. This year's festivities feature sweet and savory food vendors, new carnival games, and a great lineup of entertainment.

The carnival is open every night at 6pm beginning Thursday.

For more information, visit saipanmayor.net or the 2019 CNMI Liberation Day Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CNMILiberationDay. ***(PR)***

### Bank of Guam Saipan branches closed on July 6

Bank of Guam's Saipan branches will be closed for one day on Saturday, July 6, 2019. The bank's ATMS, online banking and customer support centers remain available. ***(PR)***

### COTA hours during austerity Fridays

The hours of operations for the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority's One-Call/One-Click transportation information resource center, demand response shared ride service, and the fixed route service will remain the same on Friday, July 5, 2019, until further notice.

Hours of operations are as follows: One-Call/One-Click Transportation Information Resource Center Reservation Line (670) 664-2690

- Monday - Friday: 6:30am to 7pm.
- Sat: 6:30am to 4pm.

Demand Response Shared Ride Service: Call-A-Ride Saipan (CARS)

- Monday - Friday: 6:30am to 7pm.
- Sat: 6:30am to 4pm.

Fixed Route Service: Flame Tree Line 1A

- Monday - Friday: 6:30am to 7pm.
- Sat: 6:30am to 4pm.

### Public invited to Liberation Day Color Run in Guam

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—The public is invited to the MWR Guam Liberation Day Color Run on Sunday, July 14, at U.S. Naval Base Guam-Radio Barrigada.

The 5K is being held in celebration of Guam's 75th liberation anniversary.

There is no registration fee and a military ID or visitor pass is not required to participate in this event.

The color run show time is 6am, with the race to begin at 7am.

Pre-registration is ongoing at Charles King Fitness Center for military ID card holders. Registration for the public will be accepted the morning of race day.

T-shirts will be distributed to the first 400 finishers. Light refreshments and drinks will be served courtesy of Orote Commissary. NEX will provide Gatorade. The event will also feature a Zumba warm-up and static displays of Navy equipment throughout the race path.

The following is a list of prohibited items: drones, weapons, backpacks, glass containers, coolers, large bags, recording devices (audio or video), outside alcohol, pets, rollerblades, skateboards, and roller-skates. Marijuana and other drugs are also prohibited on military installations. ***(PR)***

### Reunion meeting for MHS Class of 1981

Attention to all Class of 1981 Marianas High School: There will be a Class Reunion 6pm meeting tomorrow, June 27, 2019, at Tech-Nic Gaming Center above Sherwin Williams on Middle Road, across Bank of Hawaii. See you there. ***(PR)***

### Comments sought on COTA policy update

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority is updating its Limited English Proficiency Policy Plan and Public Participation Plan. A copy of the LEP and the Public Participation Plan can be obtained at COTA. Written comments must be submitted directly to COTA, Suite 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan or via email to: alfreda.camacho@gov.mp no later than July 1, 2019, 2pm. For any questions, contact Diego Songsong, COTA community planner, at (670) 664-2682. ***(PR)***

### US Naval Base Guam to conduct Citadel Pacific 2019

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—U.S. Naval Base Guam will participate in an annual anti-terrorism force protection exercise until June 28. Exercise Citadel Pacific 2019 is designed to enhance the training, readiness and capability of Navy security forces in order to effectively respond to threats to installations, commands and units.

This annual exercise, which is conducted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Commander, Navy Installations Command, is not in response to any specific threat.

Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions within communities and to normal base operations, but there may be times when the exercise causes increased traffic around bases or delays in base access. Residents may also see or hear security activities associated with the exercise. Advanced coordination has taken place with local law enforcement and first responders. ***(PR)***

### Weightlifting contest on July 27

The 2019 CNMI Weightlifting Championship will be held on July 27, a Saturday, at the Minachom Attao pavilion in Susupe, starting at 10am. Registration deadline is noon of June 25, 2019, to be delivered to Greg Borja or Jeanne Rayphand at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. office in Gualo Rai. Entry fee is $10, while the admission fee is $5.

For more information, contact Borja at 787 6642 or Rayphand at 287-9807. ***(PR)***

### Precinct 2 reps call for tree planting volunteers

Precinct 2 Reps. Christina Sablan and John Paul Sablan invite members of the community to help plant trees along the coast this Saturday, June 29, at Sugar Dock Beach, from 9am to 11am.

The representatives are teaming up in support of the "Bring Back Our Trees" project led by Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance in collaboration with CNMI Division of Forestry, Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Educational Services, Bureau of Coastal and Environmental Quality, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and other community partners.

Native trees will be planted along the shoreline to replace trees lost in Super Typhoon Yutu and to promote a more resilient coastal environment and healthier coral reefs. Water, gloves, and tools will be provided, though volunteers are welcome to bring their own.

For more information, contact MINA at 233-7333 (REEF) or email minaoutreach@gmail.com. Or call the Office of Rep. Tina Sablan at 664-8829 or the Office of Rep. John Paul Sablan at 664-8965. ***(PR)***


## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
## WUSHIN CORPORATION
**Has an opening for**

**TANKER TRUCK MECHANIC (LPG Equipment)**

**JOB DUTIES:**
Perform routine maintenance and repair duties involving repair of LPG truck mechanical equipment including internal valves, pumps, remote shutdown, liquid metering system, hose reels, emergency relief valve, and pipings. Inspect, diagnose and locate mechanical difficulties of LPG tank truck, hose, and metering system for accuracy of LPG liquid meter and free of leaks. Maintain pneumatic actuator for emergency shutdown. Layout, repair, install and replace gauge, valves, pressure regulators and related equipment. Inspect and determine repair of tire of all LPG Tank truck. Perform safety inspections on all LPG trucks and ensure repair has been completed before the vehicle leaves the premises. Maintain inventory of equipment and LPG supplies and accessories as necessary. Regular inspections of LPG storage tanks to ensure safety and continuity of LPG supply. Perform LPG line installation at customer's location and assist customer's inquiry. Perform monthly testing of safety equipments such as fire pump, generator, and all emergency shutdown switches. Secure all valves and pump switches to make sure all are off before leaving the premises. Coordinate route and delivery schedule with tank truck drivers. Respond to field emergencies such as customers request for equipment or hose leaks. Perform inbound isotainer clearance. Perform inbound isotainer clearance. Perform related duties as required.

**REQUIREMENTS:**
Prior experience as tank truck mechanic (lpg equipment) in LPG industry is preferred; has the ability to read and understand various manuals for the purchase of LPG accessories, parts, equipment needed; must have general knowledge in LPG operation and proficient with hazardous materials safety handling; must have knowledge in installation of LPGas line and must be able to do leak test. Knowledge of all applicable DOT and Motor Carrier Safety Regulations; Graduate of High School or equivalent and must possess a current and valid CNMI Driver's License.

Salary: $8.02 - $9.00 per hour

**GENERAL MAINTENANCE**

**JOB DUTIES:**
Repairing and maintenance of LPG tanks and cylinders; maintains, paints, and repairs company-owned equipment which includes LPG tanks, cylinders, valves, and others; Overseeing the safety and cleanliness of the facility; perform discharging of petroleum gas from isotainer tank to company storage tank with proper methods; and perform loading of LPGas from storage tank to the delivery truck or cylinders; read gauges or meters and record quantity discharged or loaded, examined returned cylinders or tanks from customer for surface defects such as dents, cracks, and burns; perform other duties as assigned.

**REQUIREMENTS:**
Must have knowledge in identifying gas line leakage and damage tank; must have the ability to perform LPG line installation; training certificate in hazardous materials is required; Commercial Driver health certificate is required; must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license, and police/court clearance is required.

Salary: $8.11 per hour

**BOOKKEEPER**

**JOB DUTIES:**
Establish chart of accounts, and assign entries to proper accounts. Check and verify source of documents such as invoices and receipts. Prepare daily sales report in excel format and enter data to the company's accounting system general ledger. Analyze account data to be posted to generate financial reports. Handle accounts receivable and accounts payable. Send statement of accounts to customer after the month end. Contact customer to notify them of delinquent accounts and accept payment made at the time of contact. Assemble and review vendor's invoices for posting using proper codes. Scheduling and preparing checks for payment to vendors and disburses petty cash by recording entry and verifying documents. Prepare and perform daily bank deposits. Prepare and perform monthly bank reconciliation. Maintain complete filing system to support financial records such as copies of vouchers, invoices or correspondence. Answer orders, inquiries, questions or request from customers in person, on the phone, or by email. Perform any other duties as assigned.

**REQUIREMENTS:**
An Associate's degree in Accounting or equivalent. Must have knowledge and understanding of bookkeeping practices and procedures. Must have a good communication and multitasking skills, organizational, self-motivation, responsible, and able to manage deadlines. Proficient in MS Word and Excel, and Sage 50 accounting system.

Salary: $8.84 - $8.85 per hour

Send your application or resume' to:
WUSHIN CORPORATION
Industrial Drive, Lower Base
PO Box 500440, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone #s 1670-322-7415 / 8733
E-mail: wushin2@pticom.com
From Monday – Friday, 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Application deadline: July 2, 2019.
The job opportunity is a temporary, full-time position.



## D & W ENTERPRISES INC
**Has an opening for**

**HAZMAT TANK TRUCK DRIVER (DIESEL)**

**Job Duties:**
Operates commercial motor vehicle that transporting hazardous materials such as petroleum diesel; Inspect cargo tank motor vehicle to ensure that mechanical, safety, and emergency equipment is in good working order; Conduct a walk-around inspection of the cargo tank truck vehicle to check unauthorized alterations, tampering or other suspicious activity; perform loading of fuel from supplier's facility; monitor loading and unloading with safety procedures; Secure cone signs and hose before and after unloading fuel to fuel to customer's equipment; Read gauges or meters, record quantity loaded and unloaded; Respond in case of spillage and emergency; Obtain receipts or signatures for delivered fuel and collect payment when required; prepare shipping paper for commerce and should be stored on driver's side for easy access; Ensure shipment matches the shipping paper, placards, markings, and labels. Must keep the truck properly maintained and repair truck to assure good condition and must follow all safety driving regulations; monitor the under chassis parts, electrical circuits and lightings; Report and record vehicle defects, accidents, traffic violations, damage to the vehicle or spills of fuel during loading and unloading; prepare report of diesel inventory at the end of the month; perform other duties as assigned.

**Requirements:**
Must have 12 months of experience working as hazmat tank truck driver (diesel); prior experience in petroleum diesel industry is preferred; must have knowledge with proper methods of loading and unloading of petroleum diesel to be transported. Must able to operate diesel tank truck vehicle; must have knowledge and trained on how to appropriately respond when there is emergency situation such as spills or leak during delivery; must have knowledge in emergency procedures and equipment; trained as hazmat tank truck driver; Graduate or High School or equivalent; valid training certificate in hazardous materials and transportation of dangerous goods is required; commercial driver's health certificate is required; must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license and not be disqualified to operate a motor vehicle; police/court clearance is required.

**Salary:** $8.00 - $8.30 per hour

**ACCOUNTANT**

**Job Duties:**
Prepare, examine, and analyze accounting records, profit and loss statements, and other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting procedural standards; Analyze business operations, trends, costs, revenues, profit and loss statements, and obligations, to project future revenues and expenses; Provide reports to the management regarding the finances of the company; Establish tables of accounts, and assign entries to proper accounts; Develop, implement, modify, and document record keeping and accounting systems; Reconciles financial discrepancies by collecting and analyzing account information; Secures financial security by following internal controls; Assign schedule of payments to our main supplier and our lease obligations to the CNMI government by verifying documentation; Compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting and other tax requirements. Complies with federal and local legal requirements by reviewing existing and new regulations, enforcing adherence to requirements, and advising management on needed actions. Coordinate with the insurance company for the renewal of the company's workers compensation, auto insurance, fire and general liability insurance and employee's medical insurance. Prepare and provide documentation to our external auditor for the compilation of Financial Statements; perform any other duties as assigned.

**Requirements:**
Must have earned a Bachelor's degree in accounting with at least 2 or more years working experience as accountant. Prior experience in petroleum business is preferred. Must have a good communication and multitasking skills, organizational, self-motivation, responsible, and able to manage deadlines. Proficient in MS Word and Excel, and Sage 50 accounting system.

**Salary:** $12.08 - $14.36 per hour

Send application or resume' to:
**D&W ENTERPRISES INC**
Industrial Drive, Lower Base I PO Box 500440, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel #s 1670-3227415/8733 I E-mail: wushin@pticom.com
From Monday-Friday, 3:00pm–5:00pm
Application deadline: July 2, 2019
This job opportunity is a temporary, full-time position.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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## EDITORIAL

# The high cost of clinging to coal

For a long time, the threat of climate change caused by carbon dioxide emissions was distant and abstract. But the evidence suggests it's now an immediate reality. Globally, the last five years have been the hottest five on record.

Melting ice sheets, rising sea levels, severe droughts and hurricanes—all provide a picture of what a warmer planet will bring, if it hasn't already. A recent poll found that nearly half of Americans think they are being hurt by climate change "right now."

So you might think a federal body called the Environmental Protection Agency would be doing all it could, within reason, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the harm of the carbon dioxide already pumped into the atmosphere. But President Donald Trump's administration has chosen a different approach that places the immediate interests of coal companies and miners ahead of everything else.

The Obama administration attacked the danger with its Clean Power Plan, which for the first time set limits on such emissions from power plants, with the goal of slashing carbon output by a third from the 2005 level. It was intended to encourage the shift that was already underway nationally away from coal to natural gas and renewable sources of power.

That plan was blocked in court, but emissions fell from 2005 to 2017 anyway. Since then, however, they've been rising. And the EPA's "Affordable Energy Plan" would impede progress by keeping coal-powered plants around far longer than they would have lasted under the CPP. It would let states decide how much to cut emissions—if at all. The main effect is likely to be rising carbon emissions.

That's not all. One big bonus from the CPP would have been curtailing air pollution that causes heart and lung disease, asthma, bronchitis and other ailments. It would have prevented at least 1,500 premature deaths per year by 2030. By contrast, according to the EPA's own analysis last year, the new policy would cause at least 1,400 premature deaths annually by 2030 and 48,000 cases of "exacerbated asthma."

We can hope that states will adopt more ambitious standards than the EPA demands. This month, the Sierra Club said, "It's critical that the Pritzker Administration and Illinois officials step up with stronger leadership to deliver more aggressive pollution reductions from aging power plants." We can also hope that cheaper, better alternatives will minimize the damage from this new program.

Despite Trump's support, use of coal is now the lowest it's been since 1979, and production is down as well. In May, the nation's third-biggest coal company, Cloud Peak Energy, declared bankruptcy. Seven other coal firms have done so since 2015.

A recent study found that "local wind and solar could

*See COAL on Next Page*




# War begets war…and nothing else

**By ROBERT C. KOEHLER**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Bomb bomb bomb, bomb bomb Iran…

Thanks, John McCain! Let's mix a little humor in with war. It's so much easier to take when we do. By the way, have you noticed that we're always on the verge of war?

"The bombing will be massive, but will be limited to a specific target." So said a U.N. diplomat recently, according to the Jerusalem Post. Guess which country he was referring to.

An act of war is how we "send messages." So the Trump hawks (this term may or may not include Donald himself) are thinking—if the paper's sources have any credibility—of bombing an Iranian nuclear facility as an act of punishment because Iran "has announced that it intends to deviate from the nuclear agreement signed in 2015 and to enrich uranium at a higher level than the maximum it has committed to within the framework of the nuclear deal."

This is all hush-hush, of course. War has to be planned in secret. The public's role is definitely not to be part of the debate in the lead-up process or to question the facts that justify taking action. Its role is to cheer loudly when the hostilities begin, fervently hating the specified enemy and embracing the new war as a necessary, last-resort action to protect all that we hold dear.

Its role is definitely not to question war itself or to bring up the inevitability of unintended consequences, whether that be the death of babies or the poisoning of the environment. Its role is not to suggest that creating peace is essentially the opposite of waging war, or to cry out:

"War-making must be renounced. It is past time for the paradigm shift. We have one planet and we must see ourselves as one and we must take a stand."

These are the words of Dud Hendrick of Veterans for Peace, and I pause here and let the words settle—in all their complexity—into the collective consciousness.

Perhaps what is most stunning about them is their complete absence from the corridors and smoke-filled rooms of American government. Instead, in virtually every story I read about one aspect or another of national security, what I hear is the echo of John McCain's humorous chant. National security is always seen, in the corridors of power, as a matter of striking back against some enemy or other, an attitude that strikes me as both stupid and cowardly.

I'm not saying security—either national or personal—is in any way a simple concept, or that acknowledging "we are one planet" leads to some obvious course of action. Indeed, the opposite is the case. Striking back is the simple course of action, and jumping on its bandwagon requires ignoring the absolute certainty of unintended consequences that will result from a bombing campaign or an invasion or a cyberwar or the imposition of sanctions.

The absence of "we are one planet" voices at the highest levels of government guarantees that the government will pretty much always make simple, impulsive—wrong—decisions about national security. The absence of such voices in the mainstream media, at least in its geopolitical reportage, guarantees that there will be no long-term accountability for such decisions or any memory of the resulting consequences. Welcome to the 21st century: the century of endless war.

Thus:

"Over the past few months," Politico reports, "senior Trump aides have made the case in public and private that the administration already has the legal authority to take military action against Iran, citing a law nearly two decades old that was originally intended to authorize the war in Afghanistan."

The law in question is AUMF: the Authorization for Use of Military Force, passed in 2001, in the wake of 9/11, which gave the Bush administration permission to go on a hunting spree for terrorists without the need for ongoing congressional approval. Critics at the time argued that this gave dangerous leeway to the executive branch to wage war whenever it felt like doing so, without any sort of accountability to the requirements of democracy—such as making a case that the war in question is necessary.

And so the Politico story quotes Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), who, upon leaving a closed-door briefing in May held by acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan, noted: "What I heard in there makes it clear that this administration feels that they do not have to come back and talk to Congress in regards to any action they do in Iran."

Bomb bomb bomb, bomb bomb Iran . . .

Or whatever.

As Medea Benjamin, and Nicolas J. S. Davies point out:

*See WAR on Next Page*

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Hafa Futtunata?

Hu ebaluan ñaihon i maribahan ekonomia guine pot iran pagyu yan hinanau fiñkas Japones. Maliñgu dañkulu na fondu para fina` adelantu yan ma-ututcho`chu` siha gi mismu tiempu.

Ha gacha`yu` triste `nai sige hu asimula haf` na taiguine ma-susede. Hagas man-hita yan Japones deste antes de geran dos esta pa`gu na ora. Kau guaha seriosamente insuttu ginen bandata umaminasa i mañeluta?

Kau i insuttu ma-impatta offsiatmente `sino ginen i tautauta gi señgsuñg siha? Pat gaige este gi mañan miron gi manma-elihe na tautauta? Namanman sa` i natibu mirespetu na finañagu!

`An guaha fina` inalayu` guine na patte mauleg ta limienda ensegidas. Hita i manmaliñgu gi anaku` na karera. Dispues, na ti magahet na gi hilu` sensian inafamauleg mas bintaha para todu atmos banda?

Hu tuñgu` na mangai planu adelantun bisnis niha gi tanu` niha. Kau hinanau niha patte guine na planu?

Mientras tantus, mauleg ta bisita finana`guen mañainata pot sensian hinimiddi. Este na pisu libianu ha kayun sensian respetu, inagofli`e, ina`ayuda yan gineftau gi entalu` todu.

**Chatkatsu:** Deste finattun niha i pine`lun fiñkas (investment) guine dañkulu na ayudu gi ekonomian tanu`. Lau dispues manmabogbug todu ya manhanau tatte gi tanu` niha pot kulan tita agradese ayudun niha. Suspechog-hu!

Malag manu i mauleg na amesta ni hagas tana` mahlus gi hilu` ma`ug na inatuñgu`? Guaha ha` `nai debi tana` fan humiddi hit pot para ta esgaihon suanu na amesta!

Mauleg sa` guaha adelantu gi dikiki` na industrian bisita. Mientras ta kontinua hinanau otdinariu haf` otru na katsun ekonomia guaha siakassu fontun i numerun bisita? Haf` ineppen i manma`gas I Deni`? Pat madispachan "not yet, already" ta`lu i asuntu?

Este na sinisede fuetsau pumañgun kuestion: Ñgai`an `nai para ta gu`ut asuntota `gi hilu` sattun yan fitme na disision? Na ti hita pa`gu gumubietnan mamaissa hit gi disposision kinalamten linahyan? Hala halum i toru ya ta onse!

■■■

**Asuntu:** Dos offisiu na debi suffisiente apas pagamientu: maestro yan infetmera. Rason? Ni unu gi dos gai tiempu muna` lagu amotsan talo`ane `sino sena para i familia.

Gigon mafana` estudiante pat malañgu todu attension niha gaige gi dos ni munesessita ayudu guihe na ora, sin ditension.

Huli`e animun maestra gi 32 na estudiante gi tutuhun ha`ane. Konsidera obligasioña mamana`gue yan attension areglu gi entalu` estudiante mientras mangaige gi kanaiña.

I infetmera tai deskansu lokue` piot ya finagcha`e kritikat na malañgu ni debi uma-assiste minutu pot minutu, diariamente. Suetdu mauleg!

■■■

**Lina`la`:** Esta ritirau-yu` pot mas ke dies añus. Diariu hu taitai yan repasa finaposta gi asuntun linahyan segun i ripot siha ginen i Internet.

Huñgan, guaha siha diskuidu lau puru che`chu` tautau ni libianu man-makorihe. Appenas huli`e seriosu na diskuidu ginen offisiat publiku siha.

Lau un` asuntu ni sessu maletke pot ekonomian tano`ta. Makat i asuntun lau mauleg ta pega gi lamasa pot para ta tutuhun umestudiaye, dibuenamente. Linala-ta i dichu asuntu guine!

■■■

**Asuntu:** Probleman natibu i taya` sensiaña gumu`ut yan adelanta asuntu `nai felis gi haf` ha petsige para minauleg linahyan. Un` ratutu ta malefan ñaihon estake mattu ta`lu oran nesessidat. Debi ta tulaika este na heñiuta!

Taigue sensian fitme na kinimite para ta aregla fotmat futtunata. Ta trata kulan tinilaikan klima…`an uchan, mauleg; somnag, mauleg ha`, lokue`. Dios mihu! Malag manu sensian preparasion para `an chata`an? Lau kase modun hinanau dikiki` na komunidan isla!

■■■

Ilegña un` kantan lichan iya Luta pot sakrifisiu na "tomorroooo" para u hanau. I palabra "tomorrow" ya `nai mapusturaye gi finu` Chamorun Guahan otru malagnus ni ti komprendiyun. Na dinanche i palabra deste tutuhun! Muñga mapusturaye gi rimulinun linache.

■■■

Gi tiempun NTTU, ma-emplea un` tihun mame guatdian entradan iya Magpi`. Humanau tuminane` gi fina` halum tanu`. Gi biradaña estaba esta i magasña. Finaisen ginen manugue`, ilegña, "I bullshit!" Soplu!

■■■

Hu huñgug anunsiu pot baraturan materiat guma`. Ilegña i DJ, "Rikonose guatu este na lugat sa`gof 'buratu'." Dios mihu! Komprendiyun! Lamegai otru man-lache na finu` Chamoru tat kumu "kumulelegmu" `nai propiu, "Kumeke ilegmu".

■■■

Haf` na i mas ta adahe na kosasta un` ratutu ha` mayamag `sino maliñgu? Kau inipus na inadahe na mofona huyuñg gi pettan sanmena? Pa`gu i guaguan ni tita adahe sumen ma`ug? Dios mihu!

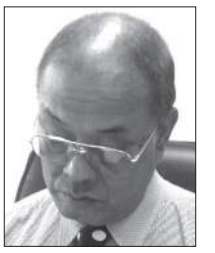
■■■

**Chinatsaga:** Hu bisita un` tiuhu gi lanchoña umesuette haf` gaige gi hatdin `sino pinegsai manog (poya) para kadog-hu. Gi este na finatoghu ha mensiona i amku` guinefiña pot hagaña ni sumasaga sanlagu.

Ti manmanyu` chumule infotmasion ya hu agañg. Hu soda` na mana`saga un` lahiña gi hospitat pot inadite sagu. Namagof na esta kayada na kareran para u homlu` tatte kabales. Magahet siñienten amku` gi famaguon. Libianu masiente `an guaha chinatsaga maseha manu `nai man-gaige.

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the* Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



## WAR

*From Page 10*

"Whether in Iran, Venezuela, Cuba, North Korea or one of the 20 countries under the boot of U.S. sanctions, the Trump administration is using its economic weight to try to exact regime change or major policy changes in countries around the globe."

And the New York Times informs us that the United States and Russia are currently fighting a "daily digital Cold War"—each country playing nasty little games with the other's power grid. The Pentagon even has an arm called the United States Cyber Command, which "runs the military's offensive and defensive operations in the online world"—and it's getting more aggressive.

"But now the American strategy has shifted more toward offense, officials say, with the placement of potentially crippling malware inside the Russian system at a depth and with an aggressiveness that had never been tried before. It is intended partly as a warning, and partly to be poised to conduct cyber strikes if a major conflict broke out between Washington and Moscow.

"The commander of United States Cyber Command, Gen. Paul M. Nakasone, has been outspoken about the need to 'defend forward' deep in an adversary's networks to demonstrate that the United States will respond to the barrage of online attacks aimed at it."

Somehow the existence of this crazy game doesn't make me feel safer. And the president, the story points out, doesn't even know about it: "Pentagon and intelligence officials described broad hesitation to go into detail with Mr. Trump about operations against Russia for concern over his reaction—and the possibility that he might countermand it or discuss it with foreign officials, as he did in 2017 when he mentioned a sensitive operation in Syria to the Russian foreign minister."

The U.S. government, I fear, contains a terrible void where it ought to have sanity.

*Robert Koehler is an award-winning, Chicago-based journalist and nationally syndicated writer. His book,* Courage Grows Strong at the Wound, *is still available. Contact him at koehlercw@gmail.com, visit his website at commonwonders.com or listen to him at Voices of Peace radio.*

## COAL

*From Page 10*

replace approximately 74% of the U.S. coal fleet at an immediate savings to customers. By 2025, this number grows to 86% of the coal fleet." These sources, of course, don't generate greenhouse gas emissions.

The coal industry is not coming back, however much some would like it to happen. Coal is the past. But by trying so hard to keep it in use, the administration puts a cloud over the future.

**(c)2019 *Chicago Tribune***

# Fallen journalists memorial a needed reminder

This week marks the first anniversary of the deadliest assault against journalists in U.S. history. On June 28, 2018, a gunman opened fire at the offices of the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland, killing five and injuring two.

We will always remember Rob Hiaasen, Wendi Winters, Gerald Fischman, John McNamara and Rebecca Smith, as well as the brave women and men who survived the attack and immediately went back to work serving their community.

These deaths are not isolated. Every year, hundreds of journalists are attacked, imprisoned and murdered around the world. Some are killed because of what they do.

The Washington Post's Jamal Khashoggi and the Wall Street Journal's Daniel Pearl are among the victims. Sadly, as we saw last year at the Capital Gazette, American journalists are vulnerable to reprisals for their work on U.S. soil.

Other tragedies have included the 2015 fatal shooting of reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward of Roanoke, Virginia's WDBJ TV and the 2001 anthrax death of photo-journalist Robert Stevens of The Sun newspaper in Boca Raton, Florida.

Others have perished because of where they are. Throughout history, journalists have been on the front lines of conflicts from World War II to Iraq. Ernie Pyle, Michael Kelly and David Bloom are among the journalists who perished in the quest to keep the public informed about the movements and actions of our military.

No matter the circumstances of their deaths, these journalists and their sacrifices deserve to be remembered. In a free society, a free press is a basic tenet. The Fourth Estate acts as both an expression and a guardian of liberty.

That's why we are beginning a campaign to erect a monument to fallen journalists in our nation's capital.

The Tribune Publishing family is grateful to U.S. Sens. Ben Cardin, D-Maryland, and Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-California, who will introduce legislation this week to establish the Fallen Journalists Memorial in Washington.

The memorial will pay tribute to the journalists who have sacrificed their lives in the name of a free press.

We have established the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation under the auspices of the non-profit National Press Club Journalism Institute.

The foundation will build support and plan for the design, construction, operation, maintenance and preservation of the memorial. Initial funding is being provided by the Annenberg Foundation and the Ferro Foundation.

The safety of journalists in the U.S. and around the world must be a priority because bigger values are at stake.

"Murder is a form of brutal censorship that is disrupting the flow of information," said Joel Simon of the Committee to Protect Journalists said. "People around the world are increasingly recognizing what's at stake. Political leaders must stand up, speak out, and deliver justice on behalf of the journalists who gave their lives to bring us the news."

This is a call to action. We must honor the memories of the journalists who have perished so that they can serve as a reminder of the essential value of journalism to our democracy.

**By DAVID DREIER**
The Baltimore Sun

*David Dreier is chairman of Tribune Publishing and the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation fallenjournalists.org.*

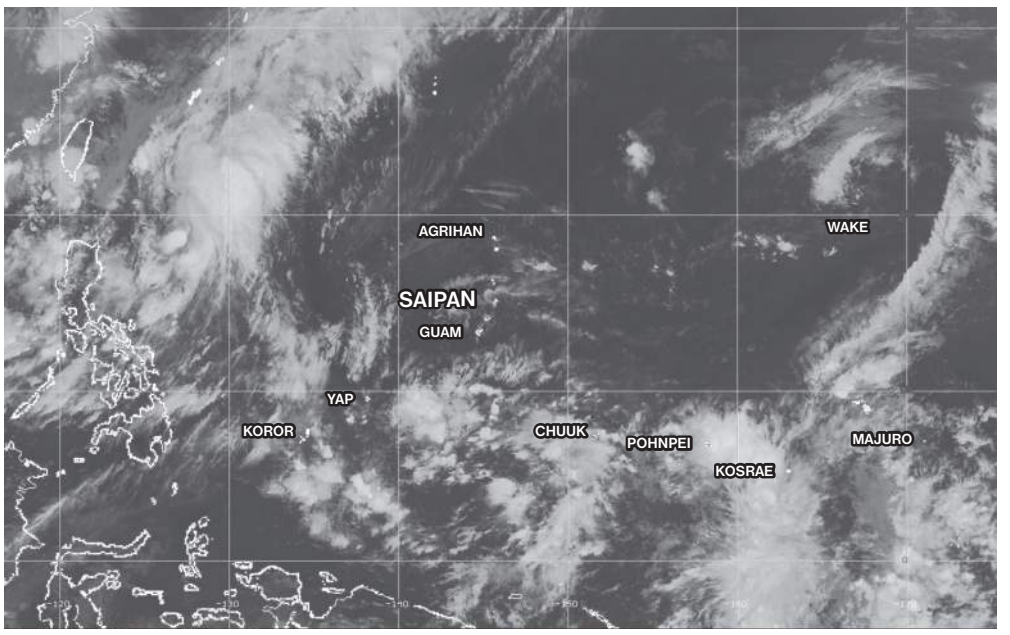


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| 90° 79° | 90° 79° | 90° 79° | 90° 79° | 90° 79° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 7:48 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2019**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile indicates east-southeast winds of 8 to 13 knots just off the ground which then increase to between 13 and 18 knots through the lowest 8 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet which are composed mainly of east swell and east-southeast wind waves.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 88° / 80° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 85° / 77° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 88° / 80° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 86° / 80° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 84° / 81° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Mostly Sunny | 57° / 46° |
| Beijing | Mostly Cloudy | 95° / 75° |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorms | 90° / 82° |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 83° / 76° |
| London | Partly Cloudy | 77° / 57° |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | 74° / 61° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 88° / 81° |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | 61° / 52° |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 88° / 80° |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | 87° / 71° |
| Osaka | Rain | 79° / 75° |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 70° |
| Busan | Rain | 75° / 70° |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | 99° / 70° |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | 91° / 71° |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 61° / 52° |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 66° |
| Tokyo | Showers | 81° / 73° |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | 92° / 74° |

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 2:14 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.83 |
| 9:02 AM | LOW TIDE | 0.78 |
| 2:08 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.29 |
| 8:07 PM | LOW TIDE | 0.63 |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 5:48 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Thursday | 5:49 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Friday | 5:49 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Saturday | 5:49 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Sunday | 5:49 AM | 6:51 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 12:36 AM | 12:53 PM | - |
| Thursday | 1:13 AM | 1:41 PM | - |
| Friday | 1:51 AM | 2:31 PM | - |
| Saturday | 2:31 AM | 3:24 PM | - |
| Sunday | 3:16 AM | 4:19 PM | - |

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 2, 2019

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 9:15am | 10:00am | Daily |
| UA105 | 6:25pm | 7:05pm | 2, 4 |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 3:10am | 6:10am | 1, 3, 5, 7 |
| 7C3451 | 3:30am | 6:30am | 4 |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW308 | 1:35am | 5:20am | Daily |
| OZ626 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| 7C3403 | 4:45am | 8:35am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| 7C3403 | 5:10am | 8:55am | 1, 7 |
| 7C3401 | 4:10pm | 7:45pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:50am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JD396 | 7:30am | 12:05pm | 1 |
| JD396 | 4:50pm | 7:55pm | 4 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8646 | 4:30am | 7:50am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU764 | 1:30am | 6:00am | 3, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ626/701 | 2:20am | 11:05am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/701 | 2:50am | 11:05am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UA117/183 | 9:15am | 8:50pm | 2, 5 via GUM |
| UA117/183 | 9:15am | 9:10pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA117/193 | 9:15am | 10:40pm | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HX077 | 2:00am | 5:00am | 1, 4 |
| OZ626/721 | 2:20am | 11:40am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/721 | 2:50am | 11:40am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UO43 | 5:35am | 8:25am | 1 |
| UO43 | 5:50am | 8:40am | 3, 5, 7 |
| UA117/159 | 9:15am | 9:50pm | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 7:30am | 8:15am | Daily |
| UA104 | 4:50pm | 5:31pm | 2, 4 |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3452 | 9:05pm | 2:10am+1 | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3452 | 9:35pm | 2:30am+1 | 3 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3402 | 09:30am | 3:10pm | Daily |
| TW307 | 7:00pm | 12:35am+1 | Daily |
| OZ625 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ625 | 8:15pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| 7C3404 | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| 7C3404 | 10:40pm | 4:10am+1 | 6, 7 |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8647 | 10:20pm | 4:50am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JD395 | 8:05am | 3:30pm | 4 |
| JD395 | 8:50pm | 5:00am+1 | 7 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8645 | 7:50pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 |

**BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU763 | 4:30pm | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ702/625 | 12:15pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/625 | 12:15pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| UA192/174 | 9:45pm | 8:12am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR |
| UA184/174 | 10:25pm | 8:12am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA184/174 | 11:30pm | 8:12am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |

**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ722/625 | 1:10pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/625 | 1:10pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| HX076 | 5:20pm | 00:30am+1 | 3, 7 |
| UO42 | 6:25pm | 1:20am+1 | 7 |
| UO42 | 9:25pm | 4:20am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |
| UA116/174 | 10:45pm | 8:12am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 7:30AM | 8:00AM | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:30AM | 12:00PM | Daily |
| 1303 | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 8:15AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 3102 | 1:45PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 3103 | 4:45PM | 5:15PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:15PM | 12:45PM | Daily |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 1:00PM | 1:30PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | 7:00AM | 7:15AM | Daily |
| 1202 | 8:00AM | 8:15AM | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00AM | 9:15AM | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00AM | 10:15AM | Daily |
| 1205 | 11:00AM | 11:15AM | Daily |
| 1206 | 12:00PM | 12:15PM | Daily |
| 1207 | 1:00PM | 1:15PM | Daily |
| 1208 | 2:00PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 1209 | 3:00PM | 3:15PM | Daily |
| 1210 | 4:00PM | 4:15PM | Daily |
| 1211 | 5:00PM | 5:15PM | Daily |
| 1212 | 6:00PM | 6:15PM | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | 7:30AM | 7:45AM | Daily |
| 2103 | 8:30AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 2104 | 9:30AM | 9:45AM | Daily |
| 2105 | 10:30AM | 10:45AM | Daily |
| 2106 | 11:30AM | 11:45AM | Daily |
| 2107 | 12:30PM | 12:45PM | Daily |
| 2108 | 1:30PM | 1:45PM | Daily |
| 2109 | 2:30PM | 2:45PM | Daily |
| 2110 | 3:30PM | 3:45PM | Daily |
| 2111 | 4:30PM | 4:45PM | Daily |
| 2112 | 5:30PM | 5:45PM | Daily |
| 2113 | 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily |

# Business

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

## CRISTIANOS

# A taste of Philly on Saipan



Cristianos' Philly steak burger. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Cristianos' Philly steak quesadilla. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MARK RABAGO
Cristianos is located across Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. in Garapan.

In a way, Chris and Kriszell Esteves' Cristianos is a food truck venture two years in the making.

Its launch was preceded by a suspected scam, a sudden career shift, the couple's return to the mainland, Super Typhoon Yutu, and a dip in tourism numbers affecting the local economy.

Chris said he's spent most of his life around restaurants in his hometown Philadelphia. He has also worked in casinos in Las Vegas and that's what brought him to Imperial Pacific Resort in 2015 where he worked as a floor supervisor.

Two years later, he quit his job at the Saipan casino to start a bento business from home with his wife. Couples Kitchen quickly became a local favorite with its delectable tacos, quesadillas, sliders, and burgers with Chris' distinct Philly twist.

With aspirations to grow the suddenly thriving mom-and-pop business, Chris contacted a seller from China and ordered a custom-built food truck for an undisclosed amount.

Weeks turned into months and the made-to-order food truck that would become the backbone of the Esteves' new food truck business hasn't showed up yet at Saipan customs. It also didn't help that the vendor where Chris brought the food truck from had essentially ghosted him.

Fearing he was scammed and now out a small fortune, Chris and Kriszell decided to go back to the mainland to pick up the pieces. Despite the unfortunate turn of events, Chris maintained his dream of having a successful food business on Saipan, an island he has really fallen in love with.

Chris again worked at a casino in Colorado to recoup the money he thought he lost in the alleged scam. In early 2018, unexpected good news greeted the Esteveses when an email alerted them that the food truck was finally delivered on Saipan.

With that, Chris and Kriszell's dream of a food truck business jump-started anew and they made it back to the island in March 2019. Sure, it didn't help that Yutu suddenly pummeled the islands in October 2018 and the damage the food truck unit sustained set them back a few months before launching Cristianos, which is named after their first-born son. They also have a younger daughter, Chloe.

A couple of weeks ago, Cristianos finally made its debut at the Thursday Market at the Garapan Fishing Base to rave reviews. The island community starving for new tastes instantly embraced the food truck's odd but delightful combination of Mexican and East Coast flavors.

Just last week, Cristianos opened across Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. in Garapan. For now, the food truck's staples are its Philly steak quesadilla, chicken quesadilla, pulled pork tacos, Philly steak fries, and loaded nachos. Customers can also order sides and add-ons like crab fries with cheese, pico de gallo, and extra cheese sauce.

Most days, Chris and Kriszell also whip out specials like the Philly steak burger and pulled pork sliders.

Chris said what makes Cristianos unique on Saipan is the Philadelphia-style cooking he learned growing up in the City of Brotherly Love. He also volunteered that he imports his cheese from the East Coast, which makes it as authentic as it could be.

"To be honest I created all these recipes on my own and mixing my home flavors with the types of cuisines I enjoyed eating. Our food may sound Tex-Mex but it's just flavors I combined and we really hope the people on Saipan enjoy them as much as we do," he said.

Asked if the slowdown in the local economy following Yutu would affect his fledgling food truck venture, Chris said he doesn't really look at things in the short term and trusts that tourists and the local economy in general will bounce right back in the long run.

"I just stick to what I love and that's cooking great-tasting food. Everybody needs to eat so why not eat good food," he said.

Currently, Cristianos is open for lunch (11am-2pm) and dinner (4:30pm-9:30pm), from Monday to Friday. For orders and the lunch delivery service, call 789-8711.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### FedEx sues to block enforcement of export regulations

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—FedEx is suing the United States government over export rules it says are virtually impossible to follow because it handles millions of packages a day. The delivery company says most packages are sealed when customers drop them off. It compares names and addresses of shippers and recipients against a government list of groups and people who could be national security risks. Memphis, Tennessee-based FedEx sued the Commerce Department and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on Monday in federal court in Washington. The department said in a statement it has not reviewed the complaint but looks forward to "defending our role in protecting U.S. national security." Last year, FedEx paid $500,000 to settle government allegations that it violated export rules in handling some shipments to flagged entities in France and Pakistan.

### Dutch telephone outage takes out nation's emergency number

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands** (AP)—A major telephone outage took down the Dutch emergency number for more than three hours Monday, forcing police and other first responders to scramble to set up alternatives. KPN tweeted at around 7:40 p.m. (1740 GMT) that the outage had been repaired, the 112 alarm number was working again and mobile and fixed phone services were restored. The outage began around 4 p.m. (1400 GMT) forcing emergency services to quickly establish new contact numbers that were publicized on social media and via push alerts to many mobile phones. Police also sent officers onto the streets so that people could approach them for emergency help and advised people suffering medical problems to go to the nearest hospital. "We're appealing to everybody who wants to report an emergency and needs help to ... go onto the street. Police officers with walkie-talkies are taking to the streets as much as possible so they can be spoken to," police spokeswoman Suzanne van de Graaf told national broadcaster NOS.

## Trump signs order that aims to reveal real health care costs

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday that calls for upfront disclosure by hospitals of actual prices for common tests and procedures to help keep costs down .

The idea is to give patients practical information that they can use to save money. For example, if a hospital charges your insurer $3,500 for a type of echocardiogram and the same test costs $550 in a doctor's office, you might go for the lower-price procedure to save on copays.

But insurers said the idea could backfire, prompting hospitals that now give deeper discounts to try to raise their own negotiated prices to match what high earners are getting. Hospitals were skeptical of the move.

Trump's order also requires that patients be told ahead of time what their out-of-pocket costs like deductibles and copays will be for many procedures.

Little will change right away. The executive order calls for a rule-making process by federal agencies, which typically takes months or even years. The details of what information will have to be disclosed and how it will be made available to patients must be worked out as part of writing the regulations. That will involve a complex give-and-take with hospitals, insurers and others affected.

## STOCK PORTFOLIO

### LEADING INDICATORS

| DOW | S&P | NASDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| 26,727.54 | 2,945.35 | 8,005.70 |
| +8.41 | −5.11 | −26.01 |
| +.031% | 0.17% | 0.32% |

### EXCHANGE RATES

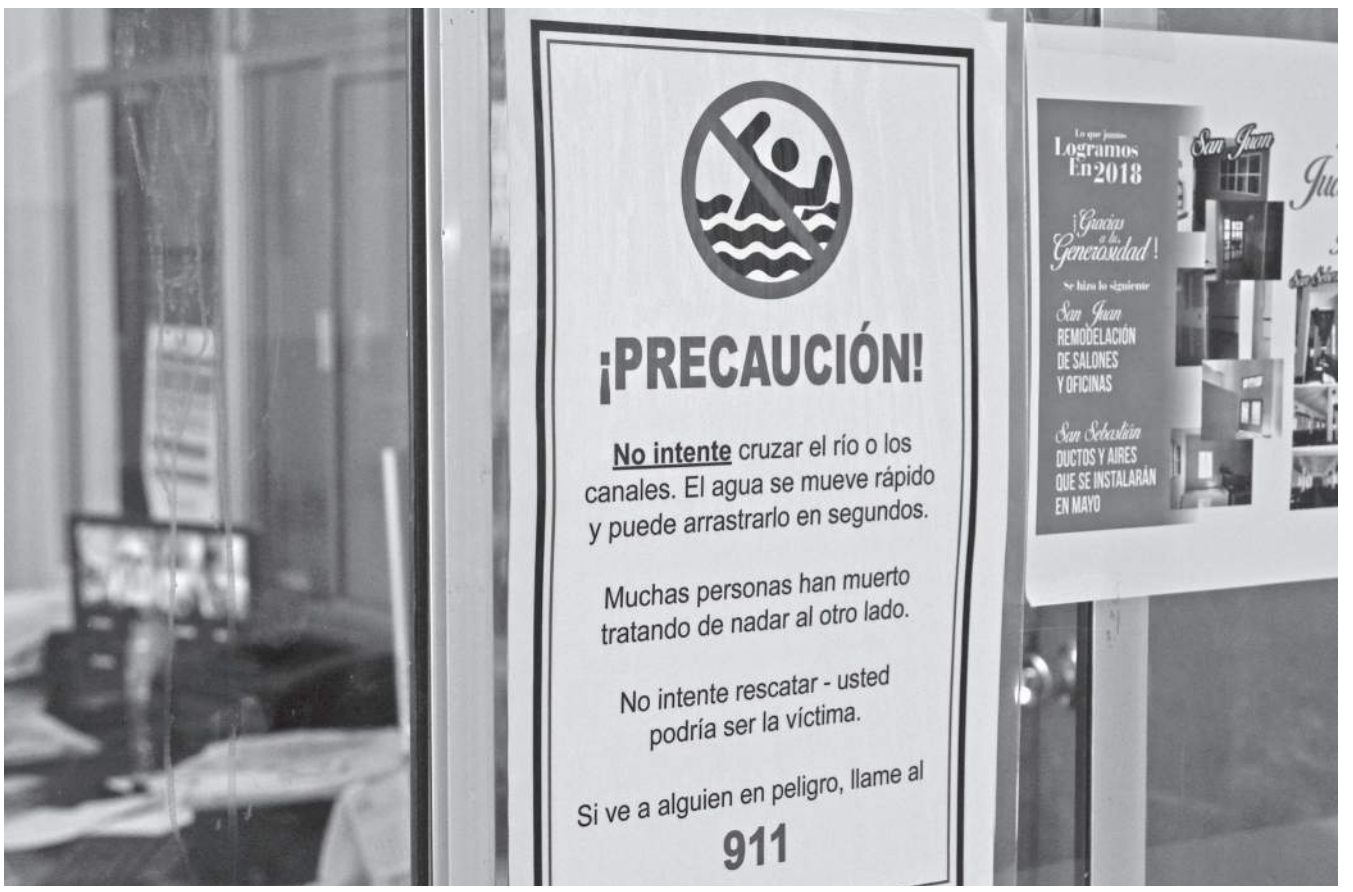
In U.S. dollar terms

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australian Dollar | 1.4370 | Hong Kong Dollar | 7.8054 | Russian Ruble | 62.6126 |
| British Pound | 0.7836 | Indian Rupee | 68.7027 | Singapore Dollar | 1.3539 |
| Canadian Dollar | 1.3180 | Japanese Yen | 106.9870 | South Korean Won | 1136.04 |
| Chinese Yuan | 6.7609 | Malaysian Ringgit | 4.0924 | Swiss Franc | 0.9716 |
| Euro | 0.8769 | New Zealand Dollar | 1.5063 | Taiwan Dollar | 30.5374 |
| | | Philippine Peso | 50.3905 | Thailand Baht | 30.6675 |

# Nation

## 4 border deaths in Texas could be a preview of the summer

By DAVID WARREN and CEDAR ATTANASIO
ASSOCIATED PRESS




AP

This June 13, 2019, photo shows a sign that reads "Many people have died trying to swim to the other side," posted in a church sheltering Central American migrants in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

Two babies, a toddler and a woman were found dead near the U.S.-Mexican border, overcome by the sweltering heat in a glimpse of what could lie ahead this summer as record numbers of migrant families try to get into the United States.

Authorities believe the four may have been dead for days before the bodies were discovered on Sunday in the Rio Grande Valley. No details were released on the victims' relationship.

It was the latest grim discovery of migrants who died while trying to cross the perilous desert and the swollen Rio Grande.

A law enforcement official close to the investigation told The Associated Press the four were overcome by the heat after fording the river. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Migrant families have been coming over the border in unprecedented numbers in recent months, reaching a peak in May, when 84,000 adults and children traveling together were apprehended. Nearly 500,000 immigrants have been detained at the border since the start of the year, resulting in dangerous overcrowding in U.S. holding centers.

A total of 283 migrant deaths were recorded along the 2,000-mile border last year. The death toll so far this year was not immediately released.

Three children and an adult from Honduras are believed to have died after their raft overturned on the Rio Grande in April. They had considered seeking asylum but were daunted by a long wait list to get into the U.S., according to a shelter official who met the family.

A 6-year-old immigrant from India was found dead in the triple-digit heat in Arizona this month, and seven people believed to be migrants died in June alone in irrigation canals that run alongside border barriers near El Paso. The total last year for such deaths in those canals was 11.

And the bodies of a father and nearly 2-year-old daughter from El Salvador were recovered from the Rio Grande on Monday, the Mexican newspaper La Jornada reported. The mother told the paper she watched her husband and child disappear in the strong current.

Border Patrol spokesman Ramiro Cordero said that in past years, agents would be posted near canals and hear the cries of help from migrants. But they are doing other duties this year with so many immigrants showing up, some in poor health.

"Unfortunately, because of the large influx of illegal aliens and agents having to be diverted to other duties, such as transporting, hospital escorts ... there are not a lot of agents readily available to hear these cries," he said in a statement.

The Trump administration is also under siege from critics who believe it is taking too hard a line toward humanitarian volunteers who help border crossers by leaving jugs of water in the desert and providing medical assistance.

The Justice Department prosecuted a volunteer with the aid group No More Deaths on conspiracy charges for providing two migrants with water, food and lodging last year. He faced up to 20 years in prison, but the case ended in a mistrial earlier this month when the jury deadlocked.

The immigrants who make it across the border and turn themselves in to authorities are experiencing their own problems and safety risks in government detention. Five children have died after being detained by the government since late last year, and dozens of youngsters were found last week in unsanitary conditions inside a Border Patrol station near El Paso. The government had transferred the majority of the children out of the facility by Monday.

Authorities say the weather is one factor in some of the recent deaths.

Higher-than-average snowfall in the Rocky Mountains is sending more water into the Rio Grande and adjacent canals, creating deceptively swift waters. Border agents say they are rescuing immigrants from the river on an almost daily basis.

## Jump in wildfires means smoke's health impact will spread

**BILLINGS, Mont.** (AP)—Climate change in the Western U.S. means more intense and frequent wildfires churning out waves of smoke that scientists say will sweep across the continent to affect tens of millions of people and cause a spike in premature deaths.

That emerging reality is prompting people in cities and rural areas alike to gird themselves for another summer of sooty skies along the West Coast and in the Rocky Mountains — the regions widely expected to suffer most from blazes tied to dryer, warmer conditions.

"There's so little we can do. We have air purifiers and masks — otherwise we're just like 'Please don't burn,'" said Sarah Rochelle Montoya of San Francisco, who fled her home with her husband and children last fall to escape thick smoke enveloping the city from a disastrous fire roughly 150 miles (241 kilometers) away.

Other sources of air pollution are in decline in the U.S. as coal-fired power plants close and fewer older cars roll down highways. But those air quality gains are being erased in some areas by the ill effects of massive clouds of smoke that can spread hundreds and even thousands of miles on cross-country winds, according to researchers.

With the 2019 fire season already heating up with fires from southern California to Canada, authorities are scrambling to better protect the public before smoke again blankets cities and towns. Officials in Seattle recently announced plans to retrofit five public buildings as smoke-free shelters.

Scientists from NASA and universities are refining satellite imagery to predict where smoke will travel and how intense it will be. Local authorities are using those forecasts to send out real-time alerts encouraging people to stay indoors when conditions turn unhealthy.

The scope of the problem is immense: Over the next three decades, more than 300 counties in the West will see more severe smoke waves from wildfires, sometimes lasting weeks longer than in years past, according to atmospheric researchers led by a team from Yale and Harvard.

For almost two weeks last year during the Camp Fire, which killed 85 people and destroyed 14,000 homes in Paradise, California, smoke from the blaze inundated the San Francisco neighborhood where Montoya lives with her husband, Trevor McNeil, and their three children.

Lines formed outside hardware stores as people rushed to buy face masks and indoor air purifiers. The city's famous open air cable cars shut down. Schools kept children inside or canceled classes, and a church soup kitchen sheltered homeless people from the smoke.

## Safety agency calls for tighter skydiving flight rules

**HONOLULU** (AP)—The National Transportation Safety Board on Monday called on the Federal Aviation Administration to tighten its regulations governing parachute operations as Hawaii officials released the names of seven of the 11 victims killed when their skydiving plane crashed last week.

The NTSB recommended to the FAA more than a decade ago that it strengthen its rules on pilot training, aircraft maintenance and inspection, and FAA oversight, board member Jennifer Homendy told a news conference in Honolulu.

She said the FAA hasn't acted on those recommendations.

"Are we trying to put the FAA on notice for this? Yes," Homendy said. "We identified several safety concerns in 2008 with respect to parachute jump operations. Accidents continue to happen. There have been fatalities since that time."

The FAA said in a statement it's implemented a number of changes to addresses NTSB's recommendations, including requiring safety inspectors to increase their monitoring of parachute operations. It said it revised safety guidance for parachute operators and increased safety outreach.

"The safety of all aircraft operations is the FAA's top priority," the statement said.

The plane crashed shortly after takeoff on Friday at a small airfield used by skydivers and the U.S. Army.

Homendy said FAA regulations for skydiving flights aren't as stringent as those for air tours and airlines. For example, she said parachute operators aren't required to act on manufacturer service bulletins, which are similar to manufacturer recalls.

Homendy said there have been 80 accidents and 19 deaths involving skydiving flights since 2008.

The seven identified by the Honolulu Medical Examiner's office included a Colorado couple in their 20s celebrating their first wedding anniversary, a Navy sailor, three Hawaii residents and a man from Minnesota.

Relatives told KCNC-TV that Ashley and Bryan Weikel of Colorado Springs were excited to go skydiving, but Bryan's mother, Kathy Reed-Gerk, begged him not to go.

Bryan's brother Kenneth Reed wrote on Facebook that his brother was "the absolute best person in the world" and that his wife was his "identical soul mate."

The Navy said Lt. Joshua Drablos, 27, was "an invaluable member" of the U.S. Fleet Cyber Command, based in Kunia, Hawaii. The medical examiner said Drablos was a Virginia resident but the Navy listed his home of record as Maryland.

The Minnesota man was Nikolas Glebov, 28, of St. Paul.

# Asia

# Death toll in Indian encephalitis outbreak rises to 152

**PATNA, India** (AP)—India's Supreme Court on Monday directed state and national authorities to file reports to the court on an encephalitis outbreak in the eastern state of Bihar this month in which 152 children have died.

A senior health department official in Bihar, Sanjay Kumar, said the epidemic is showing signs of slowing with no new deaths on Monday. The fatalities have occurred in 20 of the state's 38 districts.

The outbreak has been exacerbated by a heatwave, with temperatures in Patna, Bihar's capital, reaching a high of 45.8 Celsius (114.5 Fahrenheit).

"We're hoping with the onset of the monsoon, the epidemic will ease further," Kumar said.

More than 700 cases of encephalitis have been registered since the outbreak began June 1, officials said. Young children are particularly vulnerable to the illness, which can cause swelling of the brain, fever and vomiting.

The Supreme Court was responding to a petition filed by a lawyer. "The deaths of children are a direct result of negligence and inaction" on part of authorities, said Manohar Pratap, the petitioner.

The court expressed concern over the deaths and asked the governments to respond within seven days with details on medical facilities, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene conditions in the state.

Thousands of Indians suffer from encephalitis, malaria, typhoid and other mosquito-borne diseases each year during the summer monsoon season.

India's central government has sent medical experts to Bihar to help doctors treat the patients.

The Bihar authorities have been sharply criticized because patients were sharing beds in crowded hospital wards with too few doctors. The families who could afford it transferred their children to private hospitals in Patna and other larger cities.

The Press Trust of India news agency on Monday reported that about 6,000 deaths from encephalitis occurred in India between 2008 and 2014.




AP

Left wing activists protesting against deaths of more than 100 children due to Encephalitis in the Indian state of Bihar, sit holding placards under a shade near a police barricade in New Delhi, India, Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Australia repatriating 8 youth from Islamic State families

**CANBERRA, Australia** (AP)—Eight Australian offspring of two slain Islamic State group fighters had been removed from Syria in Australia's first organized repatriation from the conflict zone, Australia's prime minister said on Monday. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the eight children being repatriated were in the care of Australian government officials. He would not identify the children or say when they would reach Australia. Media reported that they include five children and grandchildren of Sydney-born convicted terrorist Khaled Sharrouf and three children of Islamic State group fighter Yasin Rizvic, from Melbourne. Both men and their wives died in the conflict zone. The children had been taken by an aid agency on Sunday to Iraq, The Australian newspaper reported. "The opportunity now is for these young children who are coming back to Australia, they can't be held responsible for the crimes of their parents," Morrison told reporters. The children would be provided with support services so that "they can fully integrate into a happy life in Australia," Morrison said. "They've got off to a horrible start in life as a result of the appalling decisions of their parents and they'll find their home in Australia and I'm sure they'll be embraced by Australians and as a result of that embrace, I'm sure they'll live positive and happy lives," Morrison added.

### Bad weather hampers recovery of bodies from Indian peak

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—Bad weather has delayed the recovery of the bodies of international climbers who went missing while attempting to scale an unclimbed Himalayan peak in northern India, officials said Monday. Veteran British mountaineer Martin Moran was leading a team which included three other Britons, two Americans, an Australian and an Indian on the expedition on Nanda Devi East. On Sunday, paramilitary soldiers found the bodies of seven of the eight climbers at an altitude of more than 5,000 meters (16,400 feet) on the notoriously dangerous mountain. The eighth climber has not yet been found. Paramilitary spokesman Vivek Pandey said poor weather on Monday prevented helicopters from operating in the area. He said soldiers were still searching the snow-covered area for the eighth climber. The bodies have not yet been identified. Moran's Scotland-based company said contact with the team was lost on May 26 following an avalanche. Officials said they are all presumed dead.

### Cambodia charges 4 Chinese after building collapse killed 28

**SIHANOUKVILLE, Cambodia** (AP)—A court in Cambodia has charged four Chinese people with crimes over the collapse of a building under construction that killed 28 workers. The Preah Sihanouk provincial court said Tuesday the construction owner was charged with unintentional homicide and the three other Chinese were charged with conspiracy. The four were put in pretrial detention. The charges carry a penalty of up to three years in jail. The unfinished condominium doubled as housing for the workers who were building the seven-story structure. It collapsed early Saturday as they slept on the second floor. Rescuers found the last two survivors and the final victims Monday. Twenty-eight people died and 26 were injured. The project was in Sihanoukville, a thriving beach resort town that has several such Chinese-funded projects.

## Protesters block Hong Kong building access, plan new action

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Protesters fearing an erosion of Hong Kong's legal autonomy blocked access to a government office building for nearly two hours Monday and plan more demonstrations to draw the attention of leaders attending the G-20 summit this week.

About 100 demonstrators jammed the entryway and lobby of the Inland Revenue Tower, a skyscraper in the Wan Chai district in the city center.

Earlier, one of the main protest groups announced a demonstration planned on Wednesday to try to draw the attention of world leaders attending the Group of 20 summit in Japan.

The leaders of the Civil Human Rights Front said they hope the world leaders meeting in Osaka will hear the protesters' concerns over the weakening of the city's legal autonomy by mainland China.

Hundreds of thousands of people have filled the streets and sidewalks in recent weeks to oppose legislation seen as increasing Beijing's control and police treatment of the protesters. The activists spoke on Monday near the city government headquarters, where a few protesters remained though the offices in the building had reopened.

Kelvin Ho, one of the group's several leaders, said the protest was meant to "urge the international community to give stress on Beijing that we need democracy."

China has rejected foreign commentary over the protests and the extradition issue as interference in its internal affairs.

At a briefing in Beijing, Zhang Jun, an assistant foreign minister, said "I can tell you that for sure the G-20 will not discuss the issue of Hong Kong and we will not allow the G-20 to discuss the issue of Hong Kong."

Hong Kong's government "has taken a series of measures to safeguard fairness and justice of society and to block loopholes in the legal system. We believe what they have done is completely necessary and the central government supports these measures," he said.

Joshua Wong, another activist who helped galvanize mass pro-democracy protests in 2014, said on Twitter that he was urging his followers to join the protest on Wednesday.

Pro-democracy activists and legislators and others critical of the extradition bill have insisted they are not satisfied with apologies from the authorities over the handling of the unpopular legislation and over police moves during protests that many Hong Kong residents considered overly aggressive.

Hong Kong has a separate legal system from the rest of China under an agreement struck before Beijing took control of the former British colony in 1997. The extradition legislation would enable some suspects to be sent from Hong Kong to stand trial in mainland Chinese courts.

The opponents' concern is that suspects might be pursued for corrupt or political reasons and be unable to get fair trials in courts dominated by the ruling Chinese Communist Party.

Bonnie Leung, another leader in the Civil Human Rights Front, said the extradition bill, which has been indefinitely shelved for now, would affect not just Hong Kong residents but potentially anyone visiting the city.

"The whole world who have connection with HK would be stakeholders," she said. "This is not about a power struggle. This is about the values that make the world a better place, such as the rule of law."

"If you also treasure these values please speak up and do speak up before it is too late," she said.

Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam, who has apologized over the controversy but refused calls to step down, said the legislation was needed to ensure criminals would not use the territory to evade capture and to meet international standards such as rules against money laundering.

# World

## Iran slams new US sanctions, says they mean end of diplomacy

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—Iran on Tuesday slammed the Trump administration over new U.S. sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic's supreme leader and other top officials, with the Foreign Ministry saying the measures spell "permanent closure" of diplomacy between Tehran and Washington.

President Donald Trump enacted the new sanctions on Monday against Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his associates. U.S. officials also said they plan sanctions against Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency on Tuesday quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi as saying that Trump's move means the end of diplomacy between the two countries.

"The fruitless sanctions on Iran's leadership and the chief of Iranian diplomacy mean the permanent closure of the road of diplomacy with the frustrated U.S. administration," Mousavi said.

Washington says the measures were taken to discourage Tehran from developing nuclear weapons and supporting militant groups. This comes amid heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S. over Tehran's unraveling nuclear deal with world powers.



AP

In this picture released on Wednesday, June 19, 2019, by the official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks in a meeting at his residence in Tehran, Iran.

Mousavi's statement echoed that of Iran's U.N. ambassador, Majid Takht Ravanchi, who warned on Monday that the situation in the Persian Gulf is "very dangerous" and said any talks with the U.S. are impossible in the face of escalating sanctions and intimidation. Meanwhile, the U.S. envoy at the United Nations, Jonathan Cohen, said the Trump administration's aim is to get Tehran back to negotiations.

The sanctions follow Iran's downing last week of a U.S. surveillance drone, worth over $100 million, over the Strait of Hormuz, an attack that sharply escalated the crisis in the Persian Gulf. After the downing of the drone, Trump pulled back from the brink of retaliatory military strikes but continued his pressure campaign against Iran.

Trump last year re-imposed sanction on Iran after pulling the U.S. out of the nuclear pact that world powers made with Tehran in 2015. Other nations stayed in the deal, which eased sanctions on Iran in exchange for curbing its nuclear program.

The latest round of sanctions denies Khamenei and senior Iranian military figures access to financial resources and blocks their access to any financial assets they have under U.S. jurisdiction.

Trump said the new sanctions are not only in response to the downing of the American drone. The U.S. has blamed Iran for attacks on two oil tankers this month near the Strait of Hormuz. Citing those episodes and intelligence about other Iranian threats, the U.S. has sent an aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf region and deployed additional troops alongside the tens of thousands already there.

The sanctions were announced as U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was holding talks in the Middle East with officials in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia about building a broad, global coalition that includes Asian and European countries to counter Iran. Pompeo is likely to face a tough sell in Europe and Asia, particularly from those nations still committed to the 2015 nuclear deal.

## Plotter of failed Ethiopia coup killed, 182 others arrested

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia** (AP)—The Ethiopian army general accused of leading a failed coup in a restive northern region was killed Monday in a firefight with security forces amid a security crackdown in which more than 180 others have been arrested.

Brig. Gen. Asamnew Tsige was killed on the outskirts of Bahir Dar, capital of the northern Amhara region, Nigussu Tilahun, a spokesman in the prime minister's office, told The Associated Press.

Ethiopian forces had been hunting down Asamnew since he and soldiers loyal to him attacked a meeting of the Amhara government in the regional capital Saturday, killing the regional governor and his adviser. The region's attorney-general died of his wounds on Monday, according to local media reports.

The attack Saturday was followed hours later by the assassination in the national capital, Addis Ababa, of the chief of Ethiopia's military and a retired army general by a bodyguard.

The killings were widely seen as an attack on Ethiopia's reformist Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who has pushed through sweeping reforms since his election last year.

Asamnew, the renegade general blamed for the violence, had been pardoned by Abiy after being jailed by the previous government for allegedly plotting a coup. He had recently used social media posts to incite a rebellion in Amhara, according to reports in the Ethiopian media.

The shootout in which Asamnew was killed comes as the government roots out others suspected of supporting the rebellion. Four high-ranking officials in Amhara, including the deputy head of security there, were taken into custody Monday, according to Abere Adamu, chief of the Amhara police commission. Another 178 people have also been arrested on suspicion of taking part in violence in the region, he said.

An internet shutdown has been in force across Ethiopia since Saturday's killings.

Flags flew at half-mast throughout Ethiopia on Monday, which was declared a day of national mourning following Saturday's violence. Addis Ababa was peaceful as soldiers stood guard in Meskel Square and manned roadblocks throughout the capital.

The 42-year-old Abiy has initiated sweeping political and economic reforms, including the surprise acceptance of a peace agreement with neighboring Eritrea, the opening of major state-owned sectors to private investment and the release of thousands of political prisoners, including opposition figures once sentenced to death.

Although Abiy's reforms are widely popular, some members of the previous regime are unhappy with the changes and the prime minister has survived a number of threats.

Last June, a grenade meant for Abiy killed two people and wounded many others at a big rally. Nine police officials were arrested, state media reported. In October, rebellious soldiers protesting over salaries invaded Abiy's office, but the prime minister was able to defuse the situation.

Ethiopia is a key regional ally of the U.S. in the restive Horn of Africa region.

Tibor Nagy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Africa, said the latest violence was a "shock, but it could have turned out so much worse."

"Thankfully Prime Minister Abiy escaped this attempt, because there are many, many more people in Ethiopia who support his reforms than those who are opposed to them," he told reporters Sunday in Pretoria, South Africa.

Adding that "there are vestiges of the old regime" who are opposed to Abiy, Nagy said: "I wish I could say that this is will be the last of these attempts, but no one can be certain."

## France put on hot weather alert as heatwave reaches Europe

**PARIS** (AP)—The sunset had an orange glow. So did the extreme weather warning for Paris.

Meteorologists placed more than half of France, including around the capital, on alert for high temperatures Monday as a heatwave was expected to spread across continental Europe this week.

National weather agency Meteo France predicted the hot weather could produce temperatures of up to 40 degrees Celsius (104 Ft) across the country just as the summer tourist season shifts into high gear.

The French weather agency set the heat warning level at orange - the second-highest intensity on its four-level categorization system for potentially dangerous conditions requiring public "vigilance."

In Paris, charity organizations patrolled the streets to provide homeless people with water, while local authorities organized air-conditioned public places where people could seek shelter from the heat.

French Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer, deciding it was too hot to study, ordered national exams taken by students heading to high school postponed from Thursday and Friday to next week.

International soccer federation FIFA could face implementing heat precautions at the Women's World Cup, which France is hosting. The precautions include holding cooling breaks during matches and postponing games if the heat is too intense.

Women's World Cup matches are scheduled every day this week, except Wednesday and Sunday. Luckily, most were set to be played at night.

France introduced a heat watch warning system after a long, deadly heatwave in August 2003. The highest temperatures in more than half a century eventually were estimated to have caused 15,000 heat-related deaths, many of older people left in city apartments and retirement homes without air conditioning.

French President Emmanuel Macron said Monday that vigilance was the watchword for the week.

"As you know, at times like these, sick people, pregnant women, infants and elderly people are the most vulnerable. So we must be vigilant with them and have prevention measures in place in order to intervene as quickly as possible," Macron said.

French Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said Monday that "everything is ready" in retirement homes, hospitals and transportation systems.

"Yet when people are fragile, even when everything is organized, there's always a higher mortality rate," she warned.

Meteorologists said hot winds from the Sahara Desert brought the scorching weather to Europe. Similar heat is expected in Belgium, Switzerland and Germany.

In Germany, temperatures above 40 degrees C are possible in some places on Wednesday, topping the country's previous June record of 38.2 degrees Celsius (nearly 100.8 degrees Fahrenheit) set in Frankfurt in 1947.

# Focus

# UNDERAGE FIGHTERS
## drawn into Indonesian separatist conflict

By STEPHEN WRIGHT
Associated Press



AP

In this photo taken in May 2019, and released by the West Papua Liberation Army-Free Papua Organization, men and boys from the West Papua Liberation Army pose with weapons in the Nduga region of the central highlands, Papua province, Indonesia.

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** (AP)— The long-simmering armed conflict between Indonesia's military and Papuans seeking independence includes indigenous teenagers and boys who appear barely adolescent, The Associated Press has found, highlighting how Indonesia's heavy-handed attempts to extinguish the movement have produced a new generation of fighters.

The West Papua Liberation Army, which has fought Indonesian control in the easternmost region since the early 1960s, and Papuans who peacefully advocate independence acknowledge that youngsters are involved in the conflict. But they also describe them as willing participants who fight against the Indonesian state because of military operations in Papua.

International law defines a child as under 18 years old and the recruitment and use of children under 15 for military purposes is a war crime under the 2002 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Nearly 170 countries including Indonesia have ratified a U.N. treaty that obliges governments to stop military recruitment of anyone under 18 and to work toward ending the military exploitation of children by state and non-state armed groups.

Sebby Sambom, a Liberation Army spokesman who lives in neighboring Papua New Guinea, acknowledged that combatants include people under 18, describing it as part of West Papua's history and struggle for independence.

The Papuan fighters have never been well armed but have battled Indonesia since it took control of the mineral-rich region from the Dutch in 1962. Papuans, who had declared their independence the year before, see Indonesians as invaders who cemented control with a sham referendum at the end of the 1960s.

For the Indonesian government, Papua is a rich prize endowed with mineral resources it says it will never give up. Officials say the territory is rightfully Indonesia's under international law because it was part of the Dutch East Indies empire that is the basis for Indonesia's modern borders.

The existence of child soldiers "is a sign that the West Papuan conflict is far more serious than the world acknowledges," said Veronica Koman, a human rights lawyer who has frequently called attention to alleged police and military abuses in the region.

"West Papua needs urgent international intervention, because child soldiers are themselves victims. The Indonesian government's security approach has created an intractable conflict by brutalizing generation after generation of West Papuans," she said.

A photo taken in May by a Liberation Army member in the Nduga area of the central highlands in Papua shows four males who appear to range in age from pre-teen to adolescent, with four older men also the same group, all holding military-style weapons.

A video recorded by the independence fighters in the same area earlier this year shows some of the same boys, one holding a rifle, and other possible adolescents standing at attention among a group of about 40 armed men who had assembled to hear a speech about their military victories since 2017.

Also in the video is Ekianus Kogeya, who turned 19 in May and is described by the Liberation Army as a brigadier general and its commander in the Nduga area, after taking over from his father Silas Elmin Kogeya, who reportedly died several years ago.

It is unclear how many teens are directly involved in the conflict or what specific roles they play, but with several hotspots it could be at least dozens.

Victor Mambor, editor of Papuan news site Tabloid Jubi, told AP he was unexpectedly contacted by a group of 20 fighters in January while reporting on the humanitarian crisis in Nduga. Thousands of civilians have been displaced by a security crackdown following a December attack that killed 19 construction workers. The group was three-quarters teenage boys, some 15-16 years old, he said.

"This group didn't speak too much. They are only talking about 'We are not criminals, not terrorists, we fight for our people,'" he said.

"Those teenagers have no hope in their own land," Mambor said. "There is no job for them if they finish school. Many soldiers in their villages. Maybe their only hope to exist is to hold a weapon."

Groups campaigning to end the use of child soldiers say they are sometimes forcibly recruited but can also join militaries and armed groups because of cultural pressures, for protection or money to escape desperate poverty. Children in conflicts, whether as combatants or in other roles such as porters, face a high risk of being abused, killed or maimed and those that survive can suffer profound psychological and social problems.

Papua is not mentioned in the U.N. secretary-general's yearly report on states and groups using child soldiers, and international awareness of the situation in Papua is low. Indonesia's restrictions on foreign journalists and organizations operating in the region has kept it mostly hidden from world attention. Rights groups criticize the U.N.'s list for being politicized and incomplete.

Papua makes up nearly a quarter of Indonesia's land area and is rich in tropical forests and mineral resources including one of the world's largest gold and copper mines. Even so, vast areas remain outside of Indonesian control due to being remote, mountainous and thickly jungled.

An influx of migrants from other parts of Indonesia has made Papuans an economically and politically marginalized minority in some lowland areas, adding fuel to the conflict. But highland areas about the size of Britain are populated mainly by Papuans.

Attempts to break up that jungled fortress with the construction of a trans-Papua highway have become a new flashpoint in the conflict. The highway looms as an existential threat for Papuans already reeling from the impact of high infant mortality, bouts of famine, the rampant spread of HIV/AIDS and an unknown number of deaths from Indonesian military campaigns since the 1960s.

Papuan activists fear the highway will result not in economic development but in the total dispossession of their land.

Sambom, who described youngsters involved with the Liberation Army as "children" and "young men," said children of independence fighters grow up in the jungle, have "bitter experiences due to brutal (Indonesian) military operations" and automatically become fighters.

"This situation applies in all of the central highlands of Papua, which are areas of war conflict," he said in an email. "They grow up and become Papuan freedom fighters, namely continuing the struggle of their parents."

In a telephone interview, he didn't answer questions about the number of teenage or child combatants or their specific roles in the conflict. He said the children of Papuan fighters don't attend school, partly because they fear they'll be kidnapped or killed by the Indonesian military.

The Indonesian military spokesman in Papua, Muhammad Aidi, said Papuan fighters killed by Indonesian forces are mostly 20-40 years old. He said he had not seen any direct evidence of child combatants but in some remote areas children aspired to join the West Papua Liberation Army.

"If we ask some children in the remote region of Mapenduma about their dreams in the future, their answer is to become an OPM (Free Papua Organization) fighter," he said. "Because they don't know the outside world."

He said anyone under 18 who attacked Indonesian security forces with arms would not be spared.

"The threat is the same as adults who can kill us with their guns," he said.

# Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING:

# Viking begonias
## shaking up the garden world



Viking Begonias selections feature flowers that are rose, pink, scarlet and coral flame. TNS



TNS

Viking Begonias come in bright green leafed, bronze and chocolate.



Begonia Viking-XL, Red-on-Chocolate is a 2019 AAS Winner. TNS



TNS

Viking begonia Red on Chocolate also come in the standard habit which is a little shorter.

**By NORMAN WINTER**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Life seemed as it should for all of us gardeners and horticultural gurus. We loved Big Begonias, Whopper Begonias and Tophat that had just introduced white. Shoot we still had Dragon Wing at the throne when it came to hanging baskets. Then something happened in the space-time continuum of begonias and gardeners. Our happiness has been shaken thanks to Viking begonias.

You see we can't be happy now until we get our hands on each and every color in this new series of begonias. These have been the jaw-droppers at all of the trials this summer. Eight standard varieties and 4 that are called XL. You may have heard of the one called Viking Red on Chocolate XL as it is a 2019 AAS Winner.

My gut tells me, however, that this one largely slipped under the radar this year, and to be honest, I would like to know why. At trials which typically seem like an ocean of color, begonias typically have an uphill battle to steal the limelight from plants like lantanas, zinnias, and salvias, but not the case this year.

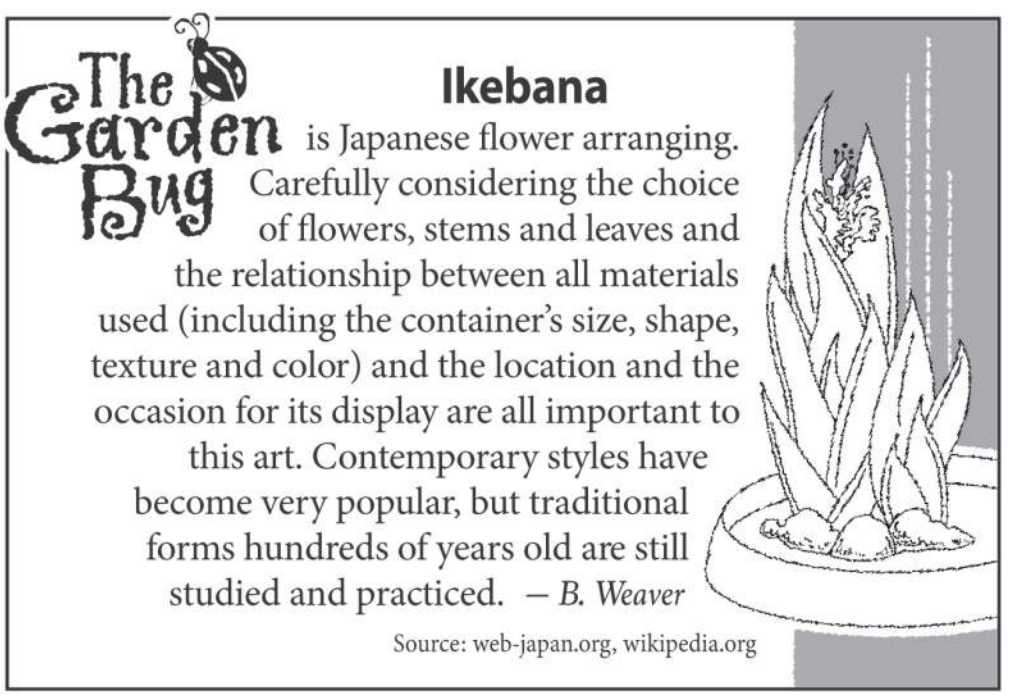
The Viking series of begonias is coming from Sakata Seed that also brought us SunPatiens and in a similar fashion, these begonias too are packed with vigor and performance. The eight regular selections are suggested to reach a height of 20-24 inches with a spread of 24 to 28 inches. The XL group takes on a more dwarf azalea frame reaching 28-34 inches tall with a width of 32 to 36 inches or should we say, THREE FEET.

The rows of these begonias were uniform and stunning and seemed to be the gathering place of greenhouse producers, garden center owners, and professional designers. The consensus was I want it and I want it NOW. To be honest it will be next year before most of us get our hands on it. The wrinkle in that may come from the 2019 AAS Winner Red on Chocolate XL. Seeds are out there although 99.5% of us have never grown a begonia from seed. Visit your garden center often this season and keep your eyes open, you never know.

You'll find three leaf colors in the series, bright green, bronze, and chocolate. The foliage is so luscious you want to touch it. While I have touted the size of the plants know also that the flowers are enormous and colorful with rose, pink, scarlet and coral flame. Judges were impressed with how the deep bronze of this year's AAS Winer remained sharp and intense no matter what area of the country it was grown. Hello Sakata, we want it now!

Whether you choose to grow in sun or partial-sun, the soil should be fertile, organic-rich and well drained. Work in 3 to 4 inches of organic matter, turning the soil to a depth of about 8 inches. While tilling, add two pounds of a slow-release, 12-6-6 fertilizer with minor nutrients per 100 square feet of bed space.

These plants are ever-blooming and have the ability to form an almost dwarf shrub-like appearance. They lend themselves to create stunning vistas when mass planted. Believe me when I say, however, they can stand alone in large containers dazzling on the porch patio or deck. The Garden Guy looks forward to the day where they are combined with bananas, gingers and elephant ears for a tropical paradise. Sakata, I want them NOW!




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# Life & Style

## 'True Justice' explores lawyer who defends death row inmates

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** (AP)—Civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson rarely slows down, friends and family say. It seems he's always looking over details on death penalty cases from his Montgomery, Alabama-based Equal Justice Initiative. If he's not speaking on the criminalization of black men, Stevenson is researching another historical site connected to an episode of racial violence.

But a new HBO documentary on Stevenson attempts to get him to sit, speak and explain why he believes the legacy of lynchings of African Americans in the U.S. is directly linked to those who have wrongly been put on death row. In his mind, racial structures of oppression have remained in the U.S. judicial system since the Jim Crow-era and the death penalty is merely their direct descendant.


Stevenson

"Most people don't know about our history of lynching," Stevenson told The Associated Press in a phone interview shortly after receiving news Friday that the Supreme Court had overturned the death sentence for Curtis Flowers , a Mississippi black man. "People have never been required to talk about it. But when you sit and think about it, the correlation is there."

Stevenson said the white lynch mob transformed into a formal judicial process in which often white prosecutors, white judges and largely white juries are tasked with deciding if a poor, black male accused of a crime is sentenced to death.

"True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality," set to air Wednesday on HBO, shows how the Harvard-trained attorney is now dedicating his life to forcing the U.S. to face the violence experienced by its communities of color.

The Delaware-born Stevenson gained national attention in 1993 after he helped exonerate Walter McMillian, a 46-year-old black pulpwood worker on death row. McMillian had been sentenced to death for the 1986 fatal shooting of an 18-year-old white woman in an Alabama town where Harper Lee wrote "To Kill a Mockingbird." But Stevenson was able to prove that a key witness had lied and prosecutors withheld important evidence.

The attorney then helped exonerate Anthony Ray Hinton in 2015, an African American man who spent 30 years on death row in Alabama after he was convicted for the 1985 slaying of two fast-food managers. Stevenson was able to show that experts could prove Hinton's mother's gun, the one prosecutor said was using in the killings, couldn't have been the one used in the shooting.

## Lawyer: Gooding Jr.'s accuser 'troubled,' groping case bogus

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Cuba Gooding Jr.'s lawyer is urging a judge to dismiss the forcible touching case that landed the actor in handcuffs two weeks ago, arguing that witnesses and security video contradict a woman's allegations that he groped her at a New York City night spot.

Lawyer Mark Heller is also taking aim at the 29-year-old accuser's credibility, filling court papers filed ahead of a Wednesday hearing with quotes from what he said are blog posts that portray a woman with a "troubled mentality," the lawyer said.

The Manhattan District Attorney's office declined comment.

Gooding, 51, is accused of placing his hand on the woman's breast and squeezing it without her consent June 9 at Magic Hour Rooftop Bar & Lounge near Times Square. She told police she believed that Gooding, the Oscar-winning star of "Jerry Maguire," was intoxicated at the time.

Gooding was arrested four days later after turning himself in to police. He pleaded not guilty to forcible touching and sexual abuse charges at a night court arraignment and was released on his own recognizance after about six hours in police custody.

A conviction in the New York case could put Gooding behind bars for up to a year.

Heller contends the woman, who has not been identified by police or prosecutors, wanted revenge against Gooding after feeling rejected and rebuffed by him and his girlfriend, who asked her to leave them alone after spotting her following them around.

Video obtained by TMZ that the website says is from inside the bar on the night in question appears to show Gooding putting his hand on or near a woman's leg and breast as they sit on a couch with his girlfriend between them. Gooding is then seen pulling the woman's hand to his lips, as if to kiss it, and leaning toward her before another man steps up and talks with them.

Gooding's girlfriend, Claudine De Niro, and a man seen approaching Gooding after the alleged incident said in affidavits filed with Heller's dismissal motion that they did not see Gooding touch the woman's breast.

## McConnell to meet 9/11 responders to discuss victims' fund

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is meeting this week with Sept. 11 first responders following withering criticism from comedian Jon Stewart that Congress had failed to ensure that a victims' compensation fund never runs out of money.

A group of first responders will meet Tuesday with McConnell at the Capitol, said John Feal, a ground zero recovery worker and longtime activist on behalf of first responders.

The meeting comes as Stewart has blistered McConnell and other congressional leaders for what he calls a lack of urgency to replenish the victims' fund, which was set up after the 2001 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

The $7 billion fund is being depleted and has cut benefit payments by up to 70 percent. A bill pending in Congress would ensure the fund can pay benefits for 70 years.

Stewart mocked McConnell on Stephen Colbert's late-night talk show last week, accusing the GOP leader of slow-walking the legislation and using it as a political pawn to get other things done.

The former host of "The Daily Show" also scolded lawmakers who did not show up at a public hearing this month even as "sick and dying" first responders and their families came to Washington to testify in favor of the bill.

McConnell said last week that the issue will be addressed and that he does not know why Stewart was "all bent out of shape."

Feal said in an interview Monday that the meeting with McConnell was long planned but that Stewart's advocacy has raised the profile of first responders still suffering from respiratory ailments and other illnesses related to the attacks.

"We are going to challenge the Senate majority leader's humanity," Feal said.

Feal, who lost part of his left foot in an accident during recovery work at the World Trade Center site, said Stewart "put our 18 years of pain and suffering" in public view at a House hearing June 11. He said first responders hope to share similar stories Tuesday as they meet with McConnell.

"Mitch McConnell should feel Jon's passion as well," Feal said.

A spokesman for McConnell declined to comment, but President Donald Trump said he was "very impressed" by Stewart's remarks.

"I liked what Jon Stewart did," Trump said in an interview Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." Trump said he has a meeting on the subject this week and "we'll see what happens."

The collapse of the World Trade Center in September 2001 sent a cloud of thick dust billowing over lower Manhattan. Fires burned for weeks. Thousands of construction workers, police officers, firefighters and others spent time working in the soot, often without proper respiratory protection.

In the years since, many have seen their health decline, some with respiratory or digestive-system ailments that appeared almost immediately, others with illnesses that developed as they aged, including cancer.

## Sail away with the must-see documentary 'Maiden'



This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows a scene from the film "Maiden." AP

Just over 30 years ago, a woman named Tracy Edwards had the idea to lead an all-female crew in the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race. It wasn't exactly met with a groundswell of support, or any support, for that matter.

The thing is, for a pastime that has so many feminine terms associated with it, there was a lot of ingrained sexism among its participants. The idea of even having one woman on board who wasn't doing the cooking and cleaning was seen as a liability. They're too weak! And Edwards herself, who everyone points out is a slight "wisp of a woman," was regarded as a nothing more than a side-show by the competitive yachting community and the journalists covering the sport.

But in 1989, at age 24, she did it.

Her unlikely journey from misfit teen to feminist symbol, despite her distaste for the term, is exhilaratingly chronicled in the documentary "Maiden ," from director Alex Holmes. Told through interviews with the now 50-something Edwards, her crew, the men she raced against and the journalists who covered her at the time alongside riveting footage from their harrowing trip around the world, "Maiden" is the best adventure film of the year so far.

The story is so inherently cinematic you have to wonder why some enterprising Hollywood producer hasn't scooped up the rights to make an epic scripted film out of it already. Daisy Ridley is right there! But maybe the world just needed a little (re)introduction to Edwards and the tale of the Maiden.

It was quite a feat for these women to even get the chance to compete at all. Edwards spent two years looking for sponsorship to offset the costs of the pricey endeavor and was met with hundreds of declines, even from those who supported the mission. Companies were genuinely afraid that the women would all die and worried about the optics. They weren't wrong that death was a possibility. As Edwards says, the ocean is "always trying to kill you," but somehow the male competitors were able to convince corporate sponsors to deal with the risk.

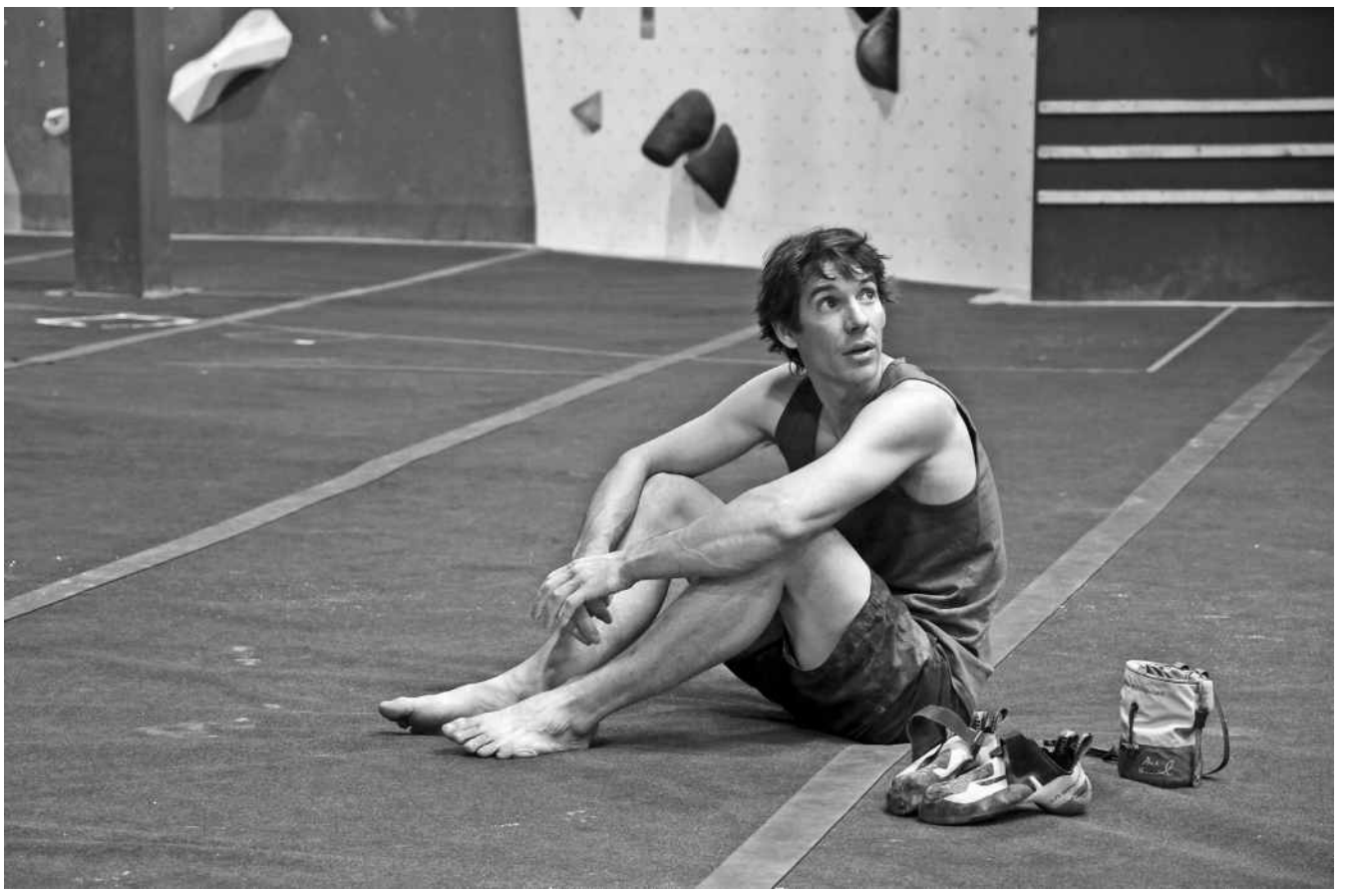
In a move she seems to regret now, she finally found support from King Hussein of Jordan who arranged for Royal Jordanian Airlines to support Maiden.

"Maiden" is not presented through rose-colored glasses either. There was a lot of conflict among Edwards' crew before they even set sail, and she ended up firing the most experienced sailor she'd recruited.

It is a delight watching these now middle aged women recount the details of their big youthful adventure, not to mention hearing from the men who doubted and dismissed them at every step. For the women, their gender was a non-issue. They were simply athletes in competition who wanted to win. For everyone else, it was all they could see. One journalist, Bob Fisher, is reminded of how he called them a "tin full of tarts" in an article. A contemporary admits that while his coverage wouldn't pass modern standards that he wasn't "quite as chauvinistic as Bob Fisher."

# Rock star: After 'Free Solo,' climber unsure of next journey

By PAT GRAHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER



In this June 18, 2019, photo, professional rock climber Alex Honnold sits on the padded floor at the Earth Treks gym in Englewood, Colo. AP

**DENVER** (AP)—Rock climber Alex Honnold meticulously chalked his hands before pulling himself up to the thin ledge inside the climate-controlled climbing gym. He dangled by his finger tips for a bit and then fell back to the bouncy mat.

Nice and safe. No heart-pounding fear of a 3,000-foot drop, either.

In the aftermath of the Academy Award winning documentary "Free Solo ," Honnold is trying to get a grip on his sudden fame (he's recognized everywhere), his image (he's not really that aloof) and most of all what exactly he does next to top that spine-tingling feat .

His realization: Maybe his 2017 ropeless climb of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park that's chronicled in the film just might be the summit of his career. Maybe his cliff-hanger sequel doesn't exist.

If so, he's at peace. These days, he's content taking a less treacherous path inside climbing gyms.

"Everybody already thinks I've done the best thing I'll ever do," Honnold said in a recent interview as young climbers gawked, pointed and stared at him before a competition at Earth Treks Englewood in Colorado. "So I don't feel any obligation to top that. Even if I did top it, there would never be a better film about it. It will never be documented in a better way. It's just not possible to make a better film than that. So it's like, 'Cool—a-once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing.' It's like, 'Let's move on.'"

Move on to what? That's his hang-up.

There's no new endeavor he's eyeing. Perhaps, at 33, he's proceeding through life with a little more caution. He's dating the same person he was in the film—Sanni McCandless—and has a house in Las Vegas.

"So far, I haven't been taking the same kind of risks in climbing, but it has more to do with opportunity," Honnold said. "I've been promoting the film and not out climbing crazy mountains all the time. We'll see."

In the film, Honnold took an MRI of his brain to see how he responds to fear. Turns out, fear didn't seem to faze him. Still, there was one poignant scene after he halted an attempt to scale El Capitan, when producer Jimmy Chin commented, "it's reassuring that Spock has nerves"—an ode to the stoic nature of the Star Trek character.

Undeterred, Honnold remained persistent. It's just one of the takeaways from the documentary—a tunnel vision that drove him and sometimes made him come across as aloof. Especially in his blossoming relationship with McCandless.

"People come out of it thinking I'm super cold, but you've got to keep it in context. Whereas when we first started dating, the relationship was much less important to me than this climbing goal I'd been holding on to for the last nine years," Honnold explained. "Everybody comes out of the film taking what they want. They cherry-pick the lesson they want, cherry-pick the personality traits they want. Everybody chooses their own adventure."

Around the climbing community, Honnold remains a polarizing figure. That's due in part to his free soloing ways, which is when a climber doesn't use any ropes, harnesses or other protective equipment and is forced to rely on their own strength. He's got numerous free-soloing firsts under his belt. But nothing quite like scaling El Capitan, a feat he accomplished in just under four hours.

For the record, he doesn't have a death wish. He diligently trained for the danger-filled climb that included sections called Freeblast (precariously smooth), Monster Offwidth (shimmying his way up a vertical crack) and Boulder Problem (executing a karate-kick move to reach a toe hold).

"That's why I spent two years practicing, to make sure I wouldn't fall off and die," said Honnold, who has a foundation dedicated to supporting solar energy and serves on the board of a company that operates indoor climbing facilities (El Cap). "If I didn't care, I would've gone the first day and rolled the dice."

# Police release more than 1,000 files from Smollett probe

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Chicago police on Monday released more than 1,000 files from the investigation into Jussie Smollett's claim he was attacked by two men, including video footage that for the first time shows the "Empire" actor with a thin, white rope wrapped around his neck that he told detectives was a noose.

The footage from body cameras worn by police officers who responded on Jan. 29 to what Smollett said was a racist and homophobic attack by two large men has Smollett's face blurred out because, as police explained, he was considered a victim at that point. The footage shows officers walking into the apartment, where they encounter the actor wearing the rope, before one asks him, "Do you want to take it off or anything?"

"Yeah, I do. I just wanted you all to see it," Smollett says before unwinding the rope, loosening it and placing it on the kitchen counter.

Police have said he told them the attackers wrapped the rope around his neck.

In the video, he tells officers that the attackers poured bleach on him. After he is informed about the recording Smollett says he doesn't want to be filmed and the camera is turned off.

In all, police released nearly 1,200 different individual files on Monday, including thousands of pages of documents, arrest reports and handwritten notes from police. Added up, there is more than 90 hours of video, much of it hour after hour of surveillance cameras high above city streets.

As the hunt for the two men Smollett said attacked him continued for weeks, some in the city started to wonder if the whole thing was a hoax. And those suspicions made it into the documents.

On Feb. 1, Cmdr. Edward Wodnicki urged investigators to confirm key information given by Smollett about the night in question: "Verify and I mean verify that the victim got off a plane at O'Hare. Big issue if that was a lie. CALL me as soon as this is completed."

It was, in fact, confirmed.

Then on Feb. 25, a sergeant sent an email saying that she'd received a tip from a caller whose name is redacted. "He has a friend close to the inner circle of the subject," the email reads. "The friend shared that the entire event was orchestrated by (redacted)."

The footage itself illustrates the growing skepticism within the Chicago Police Department, starting with the fact that much of it was retrieved from surveillance cameras. Police collected the footage as they tried to piece together the route that two brothers took across the city to the spot where police say they acted out a staged attack of the actor.

# Warner Bros. names BBC's Ann Sarnoff as its new CEO

**NEW YORK** (AP)—BBC executive Ann Sarnoff was named chief of Warner Bros. on Monday, making her the first woman to head the movie studio in its 96-year history. Her appointment follows the departure in March of Kevin Tsujihara, who stepped down after misconduct allegations.

WarnerMedia chief executive John Stankey announced Sarnoff's hiring, concluding a three-month search for one of Hollywood's most prized posts. Many had expected WarnerMedia to turn to an experienced film executive like movie-division head Toby Emmerich, who was part of the interim committee running the studio after Tsujihara's departure, Disney veteran Anne Sweeney or former Fox chief Stacey Snider.

But to surprise of much of the industry, WarnerMedia turned to Sarnoff, who has worked primarily in television. Sarnoff, who takes over as chief executive and chair of Warner Bros., is currently president of BBC Studios Americas. She has previously been a top TV executive at Viacom and with the WNBA.

"She brings a consistent and proven track record of innovation, creativity and business results to lead an incredibly successful studio to its next chapter of growth," said Stankey. "Ann has shown the ability to innovate and grow revenues and has embraced the evolution taking place in our industry."

In March, Tsujihara stepped down following claims that he promised roles to an actress with whom he was having an affair. Tsujihara, whose attorney denied that Tsujihara had any direct role in the woman's hiring, said he was departing to avoid being a distraction.

# Viola Davis determined to go above and beyond on diversity

**NEW YORK** (AP)—When Viola Davis started her production company nearly a decade ago, she was determined to bring about change in Hollywood with a strategic mandate: Normalize people of color on screen.

"We're not social statements. We're not mythical creatures all the time ... you can literally put pen to paper and write a great story that includes people of color, and it could actually sell," the Oscar winner said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.



Davis

Now, in the era of Time's Up and #MeToo, the call for diversity on all levels has been amplified. Some actors and directors have publicly called for 50-50 inclusion riders, contractual stipulations for the diversity of a film's cast and crew. But Davis says she doesn't need a piece of paper to do the right thing, and her projects don't try to replicate diversity simply based on statistics.

"Maybe that's narcissistic of me, but I don't want to tell my daughter that because she's 12 percent of the population, she only deserves 12 percent of the pie," Davis said.

She calls her JuVee Productions a "walking metaphor" of inclusion, noting that she has people of color and members of the LGBTQ community on staff at every level.

"Women are at the forefront of just about every project," she adds.

She started JuVee Productions with her husband, Julius Tennon, in 2011 so she could have more of a voice in her own career, as well as provide more diversity on set. Before that, Davis says, she often felt left out of the conversation.

Davis spoke to the AP while promoting a documentary on diabetes, "A Touch of Sugar." The actress, who has an early form of the disease and has lost family members to it, wants to use her celebrity to help raise awareness.

# Lithgow, Bening and more stars perform Mueller report

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—John Lithgow joined the growing list of actors who have taken on the role of President Donald Trump, portraying the world leader in a live reading of former special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Trump's 2016 campaign.

Against the backdrop of the ornate altar of New York City's Riverside Church, a cast of Hollywood A-listers participated in a live reading of portions of the Mueller report Monday night called "The Investigation: A Search for Truth in Ten Acts." The reading was streamed on the Law Works website .

The reading also featured Kevin Kline as Mueller, Joel Grey as Jeff Sessions, Jason Alexander as Chris Christie, and Alfre Woodard as Hope Hicks. Annette Bening narrated, and Mark Hamill, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, and Sigourney Weaver made recorded video appearances.

Others who joined the cast included Alyssa Milano, Zachary Quinto, Ben McKenzie, Michael Shannon, Justin Long, Piper Perabo, and more.

Lacking a set, the reading rested on the chops of the veteran actors, who sat behind music stands wrapped in patriotic bunting and stood when it was their turn to speak. The actors' charismatic rendering of the lengthy report garnered bursts of laughter and buzz from the audience.

"The Investigation" was created by Emmy-nominated playwright, screenwriter and actor Robert Schenkkan. He received a Pulitzer Prize in 1992 for his play "The Kentucky Cycle," and his play "All the Way" won a Tony award in 2014.



This combination photo shows actors, top row from left, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Mark Hamill, Zachary Quinto, Annette Bening and bottom row from left, John Lithgow, Sigourney Weaver, Kevin Kline and Michael Shannon, who will participate in a live reading of passages from the Mueller report for "The Investigation: A Search for the Truth in Ten Acts," which will be streamed on the Law Works website. AP

## 'Jeopardy!' champ out of debut World Series of Poker event

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—"Jeopardy!" champion and professional sports gambler James Holzhauer finished out of money in his World Series of Poker debut on Monday, a tournament official said.

Holzhauer finished in 454th place among more than 1,800 entrants in a No-Limit Hold'em event, spokesman Seth Palansky said. Buy-in was $1,500 and Holzhauer didn't reach the top 281 finishers who will win shares of some $2.5 million in prize money.

Holzhauer moved to his second poker event of the day, to play with Poker Hall of Famer Mike Sexton in a $1,000 buy-in Tag-Team No-Limit Hold'em tournament. Sexton began play for both of them.

Holzhauer told tournament officials he plans to donate half of any winnings to a Las Vegas nonprofit for homeless, displaced and disadvantaged high school students called Project 150.

Holzhauer played online poker semi-professionally in the early 2000s, but makes a living now with sports betting.

He became a celebrity winning 32 consecutive "Jeopardy!" games and raking in more than $2.4 million before he lost in early June. He ended his run a little more than $58,000 shy of the overall earnings record set by Ken Jennings, who won 74 games in 2004.

Holzhauer left with the 16 highest one-day scores in the show's history.

He has taken part in several events in Las Vegas in recent weeks, and donated $10,000 in May to Project 150. He and his wife Melissa also contributed $10,000 to a different nonprofit school dropout prevention program called Communities In Schools of Nevada.

Holzhauer made a recent donation of about $1,100 in "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek's name to a pancreatic cancer walk in Holzhauer's hometown, Naperville, Illinois.

Trebek, 78, announced earlier this year that he was being treated for advanced pancreatic cancer. He said last month that doctors told him he's in "near remission."

## Monarchy cost British taxpayers $85.2 million last year

**LONDON** (AP)—Buckingham Palace says the monarchy cost British taxpayers 67 million pounds ($85.2 million) during 2018-19, a 41% increase on the previous financial year.

The number rose primarily because of higher levels of spending devoted to critical renovations for Buckingham Palace in London. The iconic structure is in the second year of a 10-year project after a Treasury report concluded the building's infrastructure was in danger of a catastrophic failure.

The total Sovereign Grant, which funds Queen Elizabeth II and her household's official expenses, was 82.2 million pounds, or 1.24 pounds per person in the U.K. That figure includes 15.2 million pounds ($19.3 million) set aside for future phases of the palace renovation.

The palace says the royal family took on 3,200 official engagements during 2018-19 and welcomed 160,000 guests to royal palaces and events.

## Bounty hunter's wife remains in coma in Honolulu hospital

**HONOLULU** (AP)—The wife of "Dog the Bounty Hunter" reality TV star Duane "Dog" Chapman remained in a medically induced coma Monday so that she can be treated without suffering pain.

Beth Chapman was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2017 after having a nagging cough checked out, family spokeswoman Mona Wood-Sword said. Chapman was declared cancer-free after removing a tumor. But she was later diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.

Chapman, 51, was hospitalized in Honolulu Friday after having difficulty breathing and passing out momentarily. Doctors put her in a coma to spare her from pain during treatment, Wood-Sword said.

"Duane and the family feel she's such a fighter, she could get better," Wood-Sword said. "The family still has hope."

The A&E series "Dog the Bounty Hunter" was canceled in 2012. The Chapmans, who live in Honolulu, later starred in other similar reality shows, including Country Music Television's "Dog & Beth: On The Hunt."

In 2016, Beth Chapman ran for president of the Professional Bail Agents of the United States, and won. She has said she was the youngest ever to receive a bail license in Colorado, where she's originally from. That record was beat by her own daughter, she said.

In January, the Chapmans announced their bail bonds office in Honolulu was closing because the building would be demolished. Tourists would sometimes stop by Da Kine Bail Bonds because episodes of their shows were filmed there. They later opened a logo shop in the same building.

## Mother-in-law's nighttime attire causes consternation

DEAR ABBY: I have a wonderful mother-in-law whom I love very much. She frequently stays overnight in my home. I also have two young sons.

My mother-in-law recently mentioned to me that she doesn't wear underwear to bed and never has, including while staying at my house. I'm troubled by this because she wears nightgowns to bed, and I'm afraid my sons might accidentally see her lady parts. Also, she sleeps on my furniture like this, and I feel it is disrespectful and unladylike.

I don't know how to say to her that, for the sake of my furniture and my sanity, I need her to wear underwear to bed when she stays at my house. Do I broach this subject, or am I being unreasonable?

PROPER IN OHIO

**DEAR PROPER: What your mother-in-law wears to bed is her business, not yours. Unless your little boys are playing peek-a-boo underneath her nightie, they won't notice—or care. How long is that garment anyway? If it reaches below her knees or to her ankles, there should be no "bootie contact" with your sofa. In the interest of family harmony, I recommend you take a chill pill and leave the subject alone.**

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm in love with a man who doesn't want us to be described as anything more than friends. We are together every day, and he knows I love him. We have sex, and I sleep over whenever possible. He wants me there all the time but with no status. Am I wrong for wanting more? Will there ever be more?

NAMELESS IN PENNSYLVANIA

**DEAR NAMELESS: The answers to your questions are no and no. Your "friend" wants the benefits of being a lover and none of the responsibility.**

**Have you talked with him about this and how it makes you feel? You are not "wrong" for wanting more, but you are mistaken if you think that being at his beck and call is the way to get the commitment he seems to be so unwilling to make. You might have better results if you quit being so available.**

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm recently married to my second wife. We have a great relationship, but I feel like she has a better relationship with my two daughters than I do. They do everything together, and my daughters don't want to do anything that includes me.

Part of me is grateful they have such a great relationship, but I'm also jealous that my relationship with them is not as good as hers. Should I say something? I don't want to ruin what they have, but I feel neglected. Am I being selfish? Should I just ignore it and get a hobby or something?

ENVIOUS IN THE EAST

**DEAR ENVIOUS: I wish you had mentioned how old your daughters are. I see nothing to be gained by not discussing this with your wife. Parenting is not supposed to be a contest.**

**Your daughters may not mean to exclude you, but may assume you wouldn't be interested in the things they are doing or discussing. (I'm thinking of things females like to do together.) If you let them know you're sincerely interested in joining in some of their activities, you may be surprised at how quickly they include you. Also, set a standing (monthly) breakfast or lunch date—just you and your daughters—so you can spend some quality time together.**

■■■

*Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

## DEAR ABBY

**By Abigail Van Buren**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

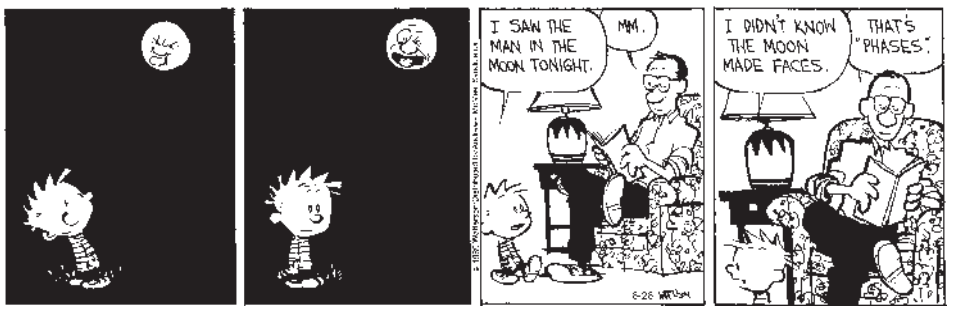


*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



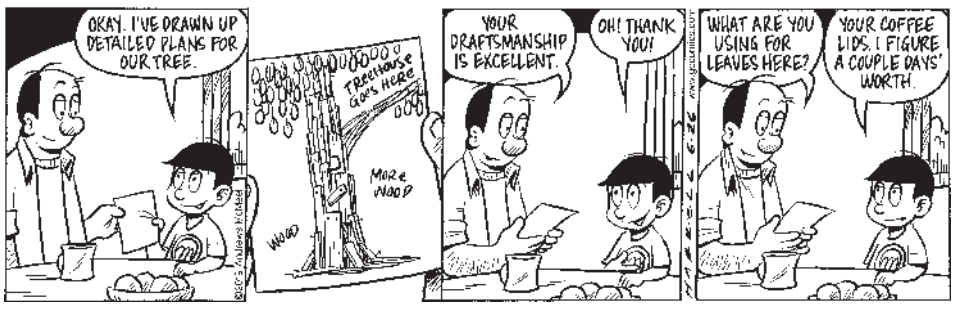

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis




## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset




## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy




## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Squid squirt
4 Be-loved
8 "Ditto"
12 "The Simpsons" barkeep
13 Killer whale
14 Director Kazan
15 Get older
16 Feel elated
18 Two-dot punctuation mark
20 Triage ctrs.
21 Calendar entry (Abbr.)
24 Smiles broadly
28 Flight costs
32 "Phooey!"
33 Hosp. area
34 Rich cake
36 Quarterback Manning
37 Arrears
39 NPR show hosted by Terry Gross
41 Thoreau piece
43 Gym site, for short
44 Promptly
46 Film trophy
50 Rock fan's imaginary instrument
55 Employ
56 Satan's purchase
57 Separate
58 Crib
59 Ginormous
60 Cookware
61 Newt

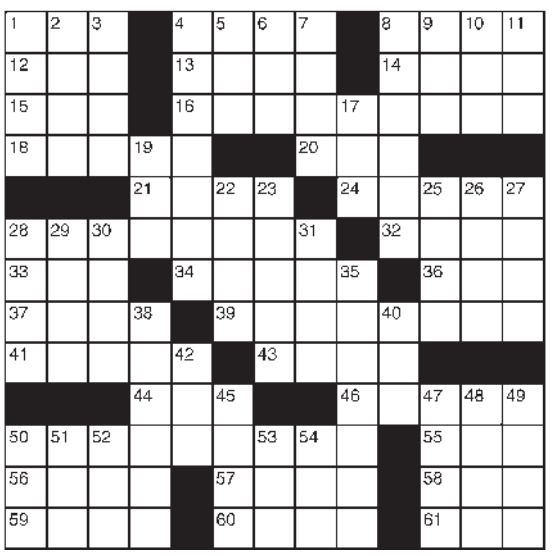
**DOWN**

1 Apple computer
2 NASA scrub
3 Fall (over)
4 Memorized
5 Historic period
6 Oft-torn knee part, for short
7 Yard tool
8 Had a hunch
9 Carte lead-in
10 Roman 1002
11 Corn spike
17 Sphere
19 Klutz
22 Campus VIP
23 Towel material
25 Vicinity
26 Niger's neighbor
27 Swizzle
28 Staffer
29 Frozen desserts
30 Abrades
31 Goblet feature
35 Prom dates
38 Snarl
40 Owns
42 One of us
45 Trace
47 Rubik's baffler
48 "Dream on!"
49 Monopoly payment
50 Bonfire residue
51 Debtor's note
52 Bad hairpiece
53 Overly
54 Illustrations

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

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Yesterday's answer 6-26



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Ariana Grande, 26; Ryan Tedder, 40; Derek Jeter, 45; Chris O'Donnell, 49.

**Happy Birthday:** Emotional mistakes can be avoided if you think before you speak and act without broadcasting what you are doing. Life is simple; it's people who make it complicated. Set your course, and know when to take a detour. How you navigate your way through the ups and downs will determine the outcome. You can make a fuss or make your actions count. Your numbers are 4, 13, 21, 26, 32, 45, 48.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Make suggestions, but don't meddle in people's affairs. Strive for perfection, knowledge and experience. Less time spent arguing and more spent on doing things right the first time will make a good impression. Choose peace over discord. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Make a change for the right reason. Refuse to let your emotions muddle your mind and cause a mishap. Staying dedicated, fulfilling promises and finishing what you start should be your objectives. A financial gain or gift is heading your way. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Don't be fooled by a sales pitch or someone exaggerating facts so that you'll invest in something you know little about. It's best to do your own thing and stick to what you know you can afford. ✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Keep your distance from anyone who tries to provoke an argument. Quietly approach what needs to be done. The fewer people aware of what you are doing, the easier it will be to complete your mission. Focus on what's important. ✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Trust your intuition, not what someone is prompting you to do. You have more options, so don't jump at the first opportunity that comes along. Set high standards to stop people from taking advantage of you. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Bypass anyone trying to convince you to do something that isn't good for you. Take a practical approach to help others. A personal change will make you more aware of what you are capable of doing. Strive for perfection. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep life simple, and refuse to let anyone drag you into a confrontation that won't solve anything. Concentrate on personal growth and what you can do to improve your life. Handle partnerships wisely. If something isn't working, know enough to walk away. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Do your own thing. If you continue to work alongside someone who doesn't see things your way, you will reach an impasse, and little will be accomplished. Consider what's best for you, and keep heading in that direction. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put more effort into getting along with the people who have always been there for you. Don't trust a newcomer who is playing you against the people who care about you the most. Trust and respect have to be earned. ✪✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* If a change is required, make it happen. Hidden matters will be revealed if you are too open regarding your feelings or your plans. Do what's in your best interest, not what someone else is pressuring you to do. ✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Rely on the tried and true. Get together with someone familiar with your history, and you will get the support and advice you need to make a wise decision. Time is on your side, so don't take a risk. ✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Concentrate on making a difference, helping those you love and bringing out the best in others. Keeping your plans and your suggestions doable and straightforward will help you avoid those pushing you to be excessive or indulgent. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are charismatic, engaging and accessible. You are ambitious and supportive.

*To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 8 | 3 | 7 | | | | |
| | 4 | | | | 2 | | | |
| 7 | 9 | | | | 6 | 3 | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | 4 |
| 5 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | 6 | 3 | 7 | | 9 | 1 | 5 | |
| | | | 4 | | 1 | | | |
| | 8 | | | | 3 | | | |
| | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 9 | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 8 |
| 9 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 7 |
| 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 4 |
| 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 |

Difficulty Level ★★

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

**CUCUMBERS** Solution: 8 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | S | E | Y | E | L | O | N | G | A | T | E | D | I | H |
| C | M | V | T | F | R | E | S | H | C | N | A | R | K | C |
| S | O | E | S | M | R | O | F | I | M | U | C | U | C | N |
| S | S | G | A | R | D | E | N | E | E | R | G | O | E | U |
| E | S | E | T | E | E | N | G | L | I | S | H | G | V | L |
| L | O | T | L | N | C | S | L | I | C | I | N | G | I | A |
| D | L | A | A | P | A | A | E | C | O | O | K | L | T | C |
| E | B | B | S | S | R | D | T | H | R | I | S | E | S | I |
| E | U | L | E | A | R | U | I | I | E | W | A | T | E | R |
| S | L | E | E | P | L | I | B | X | B | A | M | S | G | D |
| U | B | Ⓢ | Ⓚ | Ⓘ | Ⓝ | A | P | N | O | R | L | A | I | N |
| M | O | O | L | B | A | D | D | E | D | I | U | T | D | I |
| M | A | M | O | R | A | G | E | N | I | V | T | C | H | L |
| E | C | U | D | O | R | P | L | A | N | T | G | N | U | Y |
| R | S | L | A | R | E | N | I | M | U | I | C | L | A | C |

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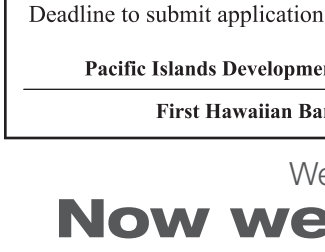
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# Teary-eyed Giannis wins MVP honors

**SANTA MONICA, Calif.** (AP)—The Milwaukee Bucks fell two games short of the NBA Finals.

They won big at the NBA Awards.

A tearful Giannis Antetokounmpo earned Most Valuable Player honors and Mike Budenholzer won Coach of the Year on Monday night in Santa Monica.

Antetokounmpo, a 24-year-old forward from Greece, beat out Paul George of Oklahoma City and James Harden of Houston, who won last year.

Antetokounmpo was a resounding winner. He received 941 points and 78 first-place votes in the balloting—165 points more than Harden.

Harden finished second with 776 points and 23 first-place votes.

"MVP is not about stats and numbers, and obviously James Harden had unbelievable numbers and Paul George also, but obviously it's about winning," Antetokounmpo said backstage. "We created great habits throughout the season and were able to stick by them, and that's why we were able to have a chance in every single game we played and were able to win 60 games."

The show had an international flair, with three international players besides Antetokounmpo winning.

Antetokounmpo averaged 27.7 points and 12.5 rebounds while earning All-NBA first-team honors this season, his sixth with the Bucks. He led the franchise to the best record in the regular season and the Bucks reached the Eastern Conference finals.

Tears rolled down his cheeks as Antetokounmpo thanked his mother and brothers in the audience at Barker Hanger. He credited his late father for pushing him toward his goals and his teammates and coaching staff for their help.

"We started from nothing as a family," he said, "and we are going to be in every stage that we can be as a family."

Antetokounmpo said backstage that he had vowed to his family he wasn't going to cry.

"When you hear your name up there on the stage and then you realize these years of hard work, what you did in the past, then you start getting emotional," he said.

Budenholzer also got choked up while thanking his family after his second coaching honor. He earned the trophy for the first time with Atlanta in 2015.

He guided the Bucks to a 60-22 record in the regular season in his first year with the franchise, leading them to the Eastern Conference finals, where they lost to eventual NBA champion Toronto.

"What they did on the court this year, including the playoffs, was special," Budenholzer said backstage. "We weren't good enough in the end, but we certainly feel like we have enough talent, we have enough character to be a team that's playing in the finals and winning a championship."

Budenholzer also coached Team Giannis in the All-Star Game last season.

He beat out Denver's Mike Malone and Doc Rivers of the Los Angeles Clippers.

Lou Williams was voted the Sixth Man of the Year for the second season in a row and third time in his career, tying former Los Angeles Clipper guard Jamal Crawford.

The guard won for the first time in 2015 with Toronto.

Williams beat out teammate Montrezl Harrell, with whom he formed the highest-scoring bench duo in NBA history last season, and Domantas Sabonis of Indiana.

Williams became the career leader in points off the bench during the season.

"This one was different because I kind of went into the season wanting this one. In years past I always just played and lived with whatever happened," he said. "I felt like this one was going to be a legacy piece."

Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz won Defensive Player of the Year for the second straight season.

The 26-year-old center from France beat out Antetokounmpo and George.

"I never thought I would be able to do that when I started basketball playing in France," Gobert said backstage. "I didn't know an NBA player, I didn't know nothing about basketball. I was just having fun."

Pascal Siakam of the NBA champion Toronto Raptors earned Most Improved Player.

The 25-year-old from Cameroon averaged 16.9 points and started 79 of 80 regular-season games for the Raptors in his third year with the team.

Siakam had 26 20-point outings after scoring 20 points in a game only once in his first two seasons. He then scored 32 points in Game 1 of the NBA Finals.

Siakam beat out De'Aaron Fox of Sacramento and D'Angelo Russell of Brooklyn.

Larry Bird and Magic Johnson shared the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The former rivals took turns holding their trophies while each other spoke.

Bird said the NBA is in good hands with today's talented athletes and he urged them to keep the game the same so it continues on for future generations.

Johnson starred for the Los Angeles Lakers and Bird with the Boston Celtics.

Mike Conley Jr., newly traded to the Utah Jazz, claimed trophies for Teammate and Sportsmanship of the Year.

Conley earned the awards for his 12-year tenure with the Memphis Grizzlies.

Bradley Beal of the Washington Wizards received the NBA Cares Community Assist honor.



Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks reacts as he accepts the most valuable player award at the NBA Awards on Monday, June 24, 2019, at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, Calif. AP

## *Warriors GM to meet soon with Durant, Thompson*

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Golden State general manager Bob Myers plans to meet with both Kevin Durant and Klay Thompson ahead of the start of free agency this weekend.

"Yes," Myers answered succinctly Monday when asked about sit-downs with both free agents, each injured for the runner-up Warriors during the NBA Finals and expected to miss at least most of next season.

Is Myers optimistic about having productive conversations with the two stars?

"We'll see."

And that was all on that Monday, when the Warriors formally introduced their three draft picks.

Though Myers did say he expects Thompson to have surgery this week after he tore the torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during Game 6, which the Warriors lost at home as the Raptors clinched the franchise's first championship. Durant was injured in the previous game at Toronto and underwent surgery for a ruptured right Achilles tendon that could keep him out for the majority of the 2019-20 season.

Myers and coach Steve Kerr have made it clear they would like to keep Durant but are prepared for the waiting game as the two-time finals MVP makes his decision.

He signed a two-year contract last summer that includes a player option for next season, so Durant can become a free agent to pursue a maximum five-year deal. Thompson also is likely to command a max contract.

Top draft pick Jordan Poole hasn't heard a peep from Draymond Green yet, though Green reached out to Myers on draft night last Thursday to get Poole's number. The new shooting guard out of Michigan knows some good-natured banter is coming from the NBA veteran from Michigan State.

And Poole will wait to see what Green does before deciding how he might respond.

"I would watch a lot of the videos in college about Michigan State and how he said he'll hate Michigan forever," Poole said. "Being able just to see that he gave me the approval that he gave Bob Myers, 'I really like this kid,' and I walked in the locker room today to put my shoes and stuff in there and he's my locker buddy. It's just amazing. I'm excited to meet him. Obviously there's going to be a lot of fun activity going on with him. He hasn't hit me yet (with a text). He has my number. I feel like it's something coming soon, though. I'll kind of just play it out, kind of ride the wave and see where it goes."

Meanwhile, the Atlanta Hawks have traded Kent Bazemore to the Portland Trail Blazers for Evan Turner is a swap of high-priced players heading into the final year of their contracts.

The 6-foot-5 swingman lost his starting job midway through last season and is set to make nearly $19.3 million in the last season of a four-year, $70 million deal.

### Doncic takes ROY award

Luka Doncic entered the NBA with a lot of hype, and the Dallas Mavericks' swingman backed it up by earning the NBA's 2018-19 Rookie of the Year award.

Doncic, 20, beat Atlanta point guard Trae Young and Phoenix center Deandre Ayton for Rookie of the Year. The No. 3 pick in the 2018 draft won the award in a landslide, receiving 98 of 100 first-place votes.

"I have no words," Doncic said after winning the award at the NBA Awards show on Monday. "This is something special. Deandre and Trae had amazing seasons. I'm happy to have it, so it's special."

Doncic joined Oscar Robertson as the only rookies to average 21 points, 7 rebounds and 6 assists. Doncic's eight triple-doubles and 168 3-pointers are both the third-most by a rookie in NBA history. He won all five Western Conference Rookie of the Month awards.

Young was the third rookie to average 19 points and eight assists, joining Robertson and Damon Stoudamire. He led all rookies in total points and assists, the first to do so since Michael Carter-Williams in 2013.

# Yanks match homer-streak record, beat Blue Jays

**NEW YORK** (AP) — The Yankees' most recent power feat qualifies as "obscure" to manager Aaron Boone. Just not unexpected.

Aaron Hicks and Giancarlo Stanton stretched New York's home run streak to a record-tying 27 games, and the Yankees beat the Toronto Blue Jays 10-8 Monday night. Hicks and Stanton each hit three-run drives, and New York matched the mark set by Alex Rodriguez and the 2002 Texas Rangers.

"Nothing surprises me that they do," Boone said about his club, which set a major league record last year with 267 homers. "I wouldn't set out to predict they're going to break that one. That's kind of an obscure one. But now that it's happened, with our group, does it surprise me? No."

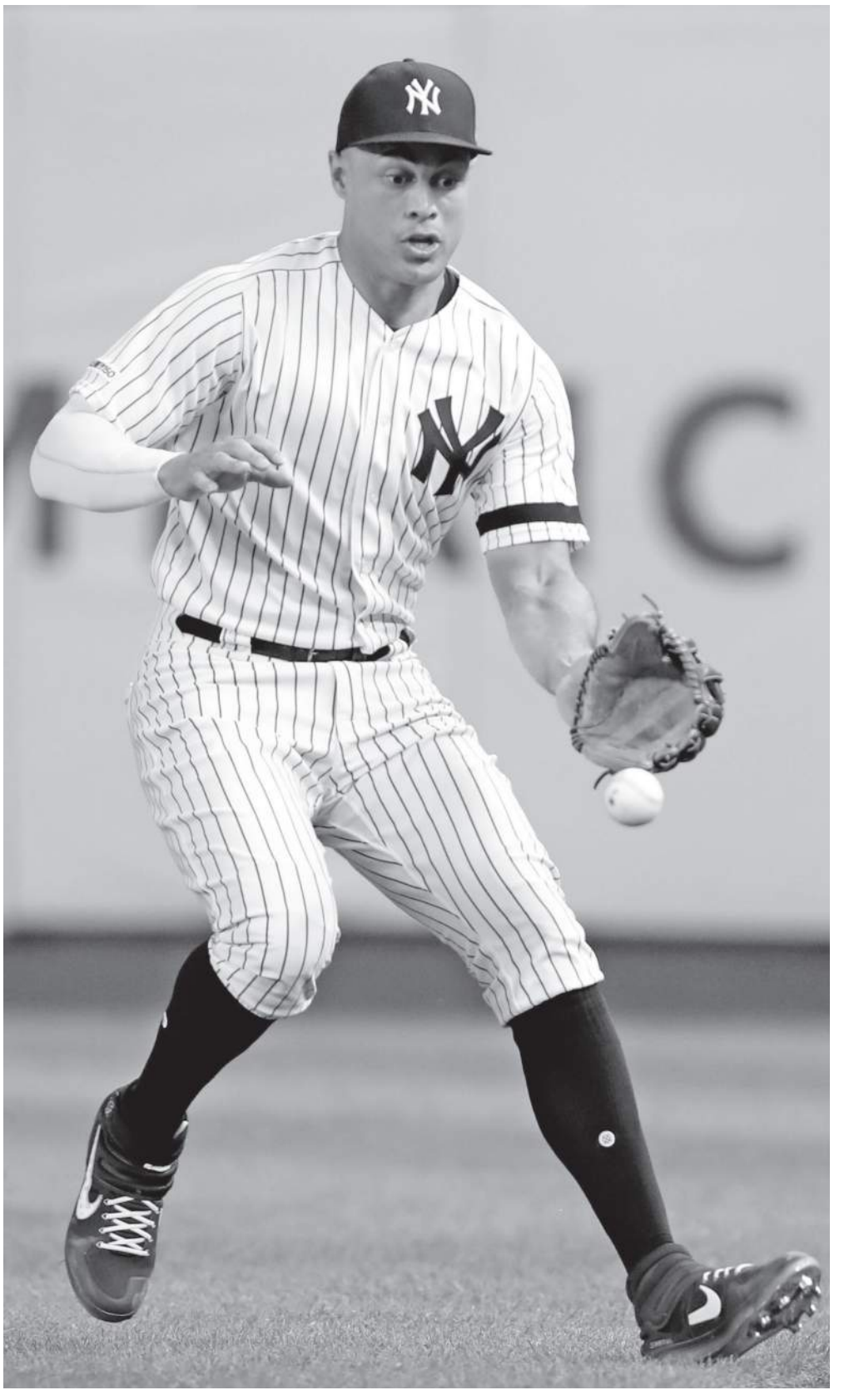
"It's kind of what we do," Hicks added.

CC Sabathia (5-4) pitched six innings of two-run ball for his 251st career victory. He threw 104 pitches, his most in a game since 2016, and struck out a season-high nine. The 38-year-old left-hander whiffed Billy McKinney with his final pitch, earning a big roar from the Bronx crowd.

Stanton hit his shot during a seven-run sixth inning for his first homer in a season spoiled by various injuries.

The Yankees batted around during that inning, their fourth time turning over the order in the past week. The blowout came a night after New York ended its eight-game winning streak.

Blue Jays starter Aaron Sanchez (3-10) allowed seven runs in 5 1/3 innings. Toronto had won three of four.



AP

New York Yankees right fielder Giancarlo Stanton bobbles Toronto Blue Jays' Randal Grichuk's ninth-inning double for an error in a baseball game Monday, June 24, 2019, in New York.

### Cubs 8, Braves 3

In Chicago, Willson Contreras homered and had three RBIs, Jon Lester pitched five-hit ball through six innings and the Cubs beat Atlanta in a chippy matchup of NL division leaders.

Jason Heyward added a solo homer for Chicago, which moved one game ahead of Milwaukee in the NL Central. Lester (7-5) allowed two unearned runs and struck out seven.

The Cubs strung together five straight hits in a five-run fifth inning to break the game open. Kyle Schwarber doubled into the ivy to score Carlos González. Kris Bryant, Anthony Rizzo, Javier Báez and Contreras followed with RBIs.

Tempers flared in the second when Contreras homered. He turned to Braves catcher Tyler Flowers after the ball left his bat, and while rounding first base, gestured toward Atlanta's dugout and thumped his chest. The benches cleared, but no blows were exchanged.

Teheran (5-6) was roughed up for the second straight start.

### Phillies 13, Mets 7

In Philadelphia, Maikel Franco hit a go-ahead two-run homer, Rhys Hoskins, Jean Segura and Jay Bruce also went deep and the Phillies snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Zach Eflin (7-7) struggled through five innings, allowing six runs and 11 hits. The Phillies had lost 16 of 22 since May 29.

Todd Frazier, Wilson Ramos, Michael Conforto and Dominic Smith hit solo homers for the Mets.

Steven Matz (5-6) got roughed up. The lefty gave up seven runs and 10 hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Philadelphia went ahead on Franco's 10th homer in the fifth, a two-run shot to center. Bruce's second career pinch-hit homer was a two-run shot. Bryce Harper, back in the No. 3 spot in the lineup after leading off for a few games, had a pair of RBI doubles. Franco was 3 for 4 with three RBIs. The Phillies had a season-high 19 hits.

### Red Sox 6, White Sox 5

In Boston, Marco Hernández beat out an infield single with the bases loaded in the ninth and the Red Sox rallied to beat Chicago.

It was the second straight walk-off victory at home for Boston, which has won nine of 12.

Brandon Workman (7-1) got one out in the eighth, to pick up the victory. Jace Fry (1-3) took the loss for Chicago, which has lost six out of eight.

Boston starter Eduardo Rodriguez gave up five runs off six hits, including two home runs over 6 1/3 innings.

Chicago's Lucas Giolito allowed three runs off six hits, struck out seven and walked four over 5 2/3 innings.

Yoán Moncada had a two-run home run and José Abreu added a two-out, solo home run for the White Sox.

### Diamondbacks 8, Dodgers 5

In Phoenix, David Peralta hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning, and Arizona rallied for the win over NL West-leading Los Angeles.

Former Dodger Tim Locastro put the game out of reach with a two-run double off losing pitcher Dylan Floro (2-2), part of a four-run outburst in the eighth for the Diamondbacks. Christian Walker and starting pitcher Zack Greinke homered, Ketel Marte had two hits for his seventh consecutive multi-hit game and the Diamondbacks ended the Dodgers' winning streak at six games.

Yoan Lopez (1-1) worked a scoreless inning and earned the win.

Max Muncy drove in three runs for the Dodgers.

Greg Holland got one out in the ninth for his 200th career save.

### Indians 3, Royals 2, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Jason Kipnis homered leading off the 10th inning as the Indians continued their impressive June with a win over Kansas City in a game delayed 2 hours, 23 minutes by rain.

Kipnis connected on a 1-0 pitch from Wily Peralta (2-4) for his sixth homer.

The Indians have won 14 of 19 and improved to an AL-best 15-6 this month.

Brad Hand (4-2) worked a perfect 10th as Indians manager Terry Francona was forced to use six pitchers because of the weather.

Whit Merrifield homered for the Royals, who sit at the bottom of the AL Central.

Indians starter Adam Plutko didn't give up a hit until the fourth, when Merrifield led off with his 11th homer.

### Rockies 2, Giants 0

In San Francisco, David Dahl hit a two-run homer in the third that held up for Jon Gray, and Colorado snapped a three-game skid by beating the Giants.

Gray (8-5) struck out six in six innings, allowing four hits and walking two for Colorado. The Rockies were coming off three straight walkoff defeats to the Dodgers in Los Angeles.

Giants starter Drew Pomeranz (2-8) matched his career high with 11 strikeouts over five innings but left trailing 2-0.

The 11 Ks were the most by a Giants pitcher throwing five or fewer innings since the mound distance was established in 1893, according to Elias.

Wade Davis finished the six-hitter for his 10th save in 12 opportunities.

The Giants, who had won six straight series openers, lost for the fifth time in seven games. Colorado won for just the second time in five games at San Francisco, which was shut out for the ninth time.

## *Stroman on Yankees trade rumors: 'I love bright lights'*

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Blue Jays right-hander Marcus Stroman likes pitching in the Bronx, and he'd love it even more if he wasn't facing the Bombers.

Asked Monday at Yankee Stadium about trade speculation connecting him and New York, Stroman stopped short of saying he was hopeful for a deal but insisted he could handle the city's notoriously tough stage.

"I love it, New York's like the Mecca of the world," Stroman said. "I love excitement. I love bright lights. I love competition. I love pressure.

"I've always loved pitching here, even though I haven't always pitched fairly well here, I've always enjoyed it. Yankee lineups are brutal. They're hard to kind of navigate. But yeah, I love the spotlight. The bigger the moment, that's where I've always wanted to be," he said.

The 28-year-old Stroman is from Long Island and still has family in the area. He was expecting about 40 family and friends for Monday night's series opener between Toronto and New York, including his brother's youth baseball team, which came early to watch batting practice. Stroman pitched six scoreless innings against the Red Sox at Fenway Park on Sunday and won't throw during this three-game series.

With the AL East-leading Yankees on the prowl for starting pitching before the July 31 trade deadline, Stroman is a sensible target. He's set to become a free agent after next season and is off to a strong start with a 3.04 ERA. He's just 5-9, but that reflects more on the rebuilding Blue Jays, who came into the day at 31-47.

Stroman is 2-5 with a 6.37 ERA in nine career starts at Yankee Stadium.

The right-hander said the trade talks have been "hard to kind of grasp," but he's had time to let it set in.

### Mets fine Callaway, Vargas after run-in with reporter

Mickey Callaway needed two news conferences to issue one apology.

After the New York Mets fined their manager and pitcher Jason Vargas for their expletive-filled confrontation with a reporter following a weekend loss, Callaway stopped short of saying he was sorry for the incident during his first meeting with the media on Monday.

Callaway cursed at Newsday beat reporter Tim Healey and Vargas had to be restrained from charging him in the cramped Wrigley Field clubhouse after a 5-3 loss on Sunday. There was no physical contact.

# Despite USMNT fervor, Mexico remains Gold Cup favorite



AP
Mexico's Andres Guardado (18) and Martinique's Daniel Herelle (19) battle for the ball during the first half of a CONCACAF Golf Cup soccer match in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, June 23, 2019.

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.**—Given the amount of star names left at home, one could be forgiven for thinking that Mexico isn't taking the Gold Cup seriously. The tournament's most successful team is without the likes of Javier Hernandez, Carlos Vela, Tecatito and Chucky Lozano as it attempts to win the CONCACAF title for the eighth time.

However, a revamped side that mostly skews toward youth is very much part of Tata Martino's plan. With a record of seven wins in seven and a positive goal difference of 17 during his reign, the former Barcelona manager might just be onto something.

Take Sunday's 3-2 victory over Martinique in the group stage finale. Under Tata, Mexico plays a positive attacking 4-3-3, with marauding fullbacks and a press that can pin opponents into their own half.

Many of Tata's new-look side are barely out of their teens. Up front is 21-year-old LA Galaxy forward Uriel Antuna, who is joined by Cruz Azul's 20-year-old Roberto Alvarado. The middle prong of the attacking trident, Raul Jimenez, is a relative veteran at 28. The Wolves forward, however, has been described by Martino as Mexico's "most important striker." There is no better indication that the Chicharito chapter of El Tri's story is over.

El Tri arrived in Charlotte on a hot streak, and no doubt relished the prospect of facing a Martinique side who was given odds of around 70/1 for the win – astoundingly long for a two-horse competition.

But Mexico's third group match was no walk in the park. Martinique, who triumphed 3-0 over Cuba in their second group game, was resilient in defense, often forcing their esteemed opponents to bypass the backline with a series of hopeful aerial balls into the box.

Target man Jimenez saw an early tap-in flagged for offside, while 32-year-old elder statesman Andres Guardardo—one of only two starters who plays club soccer in Europe—volleyed a deep cross wide of the far post.

Shortly before the half-hour mark, Mexico was awarded when they abandoned their tactic of aerial bombardment in favor of keeping it on the grass. Antuna nutmegged his marker on the edge of the box with a shot that neatly beat goalkeeper Loic Chauvet on his near post. It was the fourth goal of the tournament for a player currently on loan in California from Manchester City.

To the delight of the 59,000-strong crowd at Bank of America stadium, predominantly made up of El Tri fans, Martino's side dominated proceedings in the first half.

Mexico's 51st Gold Cup win over Carribbean opposition cemented their place at the top of the group, setting up a quarterfinal with either Costa Rica or Haiti in Houston on Saturday.

As is customary in the competition, El Tri will avoid a potential meeting with the U.S. until the final. If CONCACAF's two behemoths do meet, Gregg Berhalter's side will have plenty to be concerned about.

The USMNT may have racked up two big scores so far in the tournament, and they may be showing signs of improvement, but Martino's side have the guile and attacking impetus to cause real problems for a side that has not been tested since embarrassing warm-ups with Jamaica and Venezuela.

Of course, the USMNT will be encouraged by the fact that Martino's side has conceded three goals to lesser opposition in the tournament, and they will look to expose the kind of defending that led to Martinique's second goal.

But Tata's new-look young guns will likely remain favorites to secure their fourth Gold Cup title of the past decade.

## NMI

*From Page 28*

Young (12.36 seconds).

In other results, the CNMI's Leilani Acosta joined the women's high jump U18 contest and logged 1.35 meters to finish fifth. Australia swept the medals with Charlotte O'Brien (1.71m) taking the gold and Annie Stapleton (1.68m) and Elizabeth Moss (1.65m) getting the silver and bronze, respectively.

Besides Acosta, Sappa, and Sapong, five other CNMI athletes are competing in the Oceania meet and will have their events in the last three days of the tournament. Jamie Pangelinan and Traven Quitugua are entered in the U18's 100m and 100m m races; Oldie Roligat is competing in the U18's 100m and long jump; Tyler Santos is in the 1,500m and 800m runs (U18); and Theyvie Ann They is in the women's long jump (U18).

## TSL

*From Page 28*

them at the parade of teams at the opening ceremony, proudly wearing the CNMI colors," TanHoldings chief executive officer Jerry Tan said.

The quadrennial meet will have its opening rites on July 7, while games will be held until July 20. The CNMI will be competing in athletics, swimming, beach volleyball, golf, tennis, va'a (V1), and badminton.

"We wish Team CNMI all the best in their quest for medals in Samoa," TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino said.

Badminton will make its debut in the Pacific Games and is represented by Andreu Galvez, Nicole Malasarte, Janelle and Jordan Pangilinan, Daniel and Ezekiel Macario, and Nathan Guerrero. Other members of Team CNMI are Mayiah Duenas, Kalea Andrew, Jack Aahn, Steven Goodwin, Jason Tarkong, and Justin Andrew of va'a; Colin Ramsey, Bobby Cruz, Carol Lee, Colin Sinclair, Isabel Heras, Ken Song, Malika Miyawaki, Robbie Schorr, Tania Tan, Jeff Race, and Lydia Tan of tennis; Zarinae Sapong, Lia Rangamar, Traven Quitugua, Beo Ngirchongor, and Greg Iginoef of athletics; Tyce and Logan Mister and Chris Nelson of beach volleyball; Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, J.J. Atalig, Sebastian Camacho, Ryan Kim, and Marco Peter of golf; and Juhn Tenorio, Aika Watanabe, Sophia Gauran, Jinju Thompson, Lennosuke Suzuki, and David Boyer of swimming.

Completing the CNMI delegates are NMSA president Mike White, weightlifting officials John Davis and Jeanne Rayphand, and chef de mission Paul Plunkett.

Meanwhile, Plunkett said a send-off ceremony for Team CNMI will be held this Friday at Kanoa Resort, starting at 5:30pm. ***(PR)***

## US

*From Page 27*

Dash forward Nichelle Prince, in particular, a culprit.

They were made to pay 10 minutes after the restart following a swift counter-attack from their opponents.

Asllani led a counter down the left before releasing a wonderfully weighted pass to pick out Blackstenius, who slotted brilliantly beyond the advancing Stephanie Labbe.

Drama soon followed when referee Kate Jacewicz consulted VAR before eventually awarding a penalty for Asllani 's outstretched hand as she attempted to clear Desiree Scott's shot, yet Lindahl dived at full stretch to her right to deny Beckie.

Sweden then saw a penalty of its own awarded only to be overturned by VAR but it held on for a narrow victory.

## LAKAY

*From Page 28*

*Variety* led from start to finish, holding the No. 2 seed Alberto's to four field goals and 8 points in the first quarter to take control of the match. *Marianas Variety*-more than doubled up Alberto's production in the opening period, 20-8, with Joshua Andrew and Ken Viray leading the team's offense. Andrew scored 8 points in the first 10 minutes of play, while Viray added 6.

After an early struggle, Alberto's picked up its scoring in the second canto, but *Marianas Variety* remained on top at the half, 37-28, with Andrew, Viray, and Prince Factor hitting enough baskets to foil their foe's comeback bid.

*Marianas Variety* then regained its double-digit advantage in the third period, 58-40, with Melvin Villarin anchoring the breakaway after drilling all his 8 points in that quarter.

Behind by 18, Alberto's tried to salvage its season by rallying in the fourth period. However, Viray was there to spoil Alberto's bid, as he delivered 11 points and knocked in important free throws to bring *Marianas Variety* to the finals. Viray finished with a game-high 25 points.

*Marianas Variety* will play DC in Group A's winner-take-all title match, which has yet to be scheduled.

In Group B, it will be Lakay versus the winner of the Loving Hands-Far East semis game.

Ronald Bernardo towed Lakay to the finals after recording 19 points, 7 of them came in the fourth quarter where his team gained more cushion after a 52-49 advantage at the end of the third.

Yelyel Manalo also contributed timely baskets for Lakay in the fourth frame, chipping in 5 points, while Renren Gaviola and Shane Deleon Guerrero added 4 markers each.

Donnel Isip did not score in the fourth period, but his three triples in the third period put Lakay on top after Real Deal led in the first two quarters.

Coby Santos had 18 points in a losing effort for Real Deal, as only him and his two other teammates hit their target in the fourth canto, while Lakay had seven players scoring in that period.

### Saturday Game

**Lakay 77**—Bernardo 19, Manalo 9, Isip 9, Gaviola 8, Deleon Guerrero 8, Toribio 7, Mendoza 5, Camacho 5, Kwon 4, Macaraig 2, Solis 1.

**Real Deal 68**—Santos 18, P. Basa, Diaz 9, Kabiriel 8, Bondoc 5, Rangamar 4, E. Basa 4, Laniyo 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 16-22, 32-30, 52-49, 77-68.

### Sunday Game

***Marianas Variety* 78**—Viray 25, Andrew 14, P. Factor 11, Quan 10, Villarin 8, A. Factor 6, Younis 2, Babauta 2.

**Alberto's Catering 71**—Rivera 15, Ferrer 10, Reyes 10, Mangali 9, Barrios 8, Jandoc 6, Joyner 5, Ritual 4, Romo 2, Esteves 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 20-8, 37-29, 58-40, 78-71.

## COLUMN

*From Page 27*

exit, losing to England in the quarterfinals and leaving the tournament having won just one game.

And, sure enough, the French have looked increasingly vulnerable with every World Cup game. Wendie Renard has been a disappointment, scoring an own goal against Norway and missing a penalty kick against Nigeria. The offense has been inconsistent, and Eugenie Le Sommer has all but disappeared since the opener.

It needed help from VAR to beat both Norway and Nigeria in the group stage, and was taken to overtime by Brazil in the round of 16 on Sunday night.

"I know we weren't 100 percent today," France coach Corinne Diacre said after the 2-1 win. "Now the objective is to hit that 100 percent for the next game. Will this happen? I don't know. I don't have a magic wand, I don't have a crystal ball, I can't see in the future. But it's something that we're working on."

But now the U.S. deficiencies have been exposed, too.

"It's going to be hard-fought match with two teams that are both worthy of walking away with the title," Spain coach Jorge Vilda said.

France will have an extra day of rest ahead of the quarterfinal, because it played Sunday night. It can use every minute after Valerie Gauvin, who has been one of Les Bleues' few bright spots, left the game with a leg injury. She was grabbing at her knee while she was on the field, and was limping after the game.

The quarterfinal winner will go on to play either England or Norway in the semifinals July 2 in Lyon.

# US survives scare from Spain to advance

**REIMS, France** (AP) — Spain tested the United States like no other team at the Women's World Cup.

The Spaniards played an aggressive and physical game that made the U.S. look disorganized at times before pulling out a 2-1 victory on Monday.

It could have been just what the Americans needed: France is waiting.

Megan Rapinoe converted a pair of penalty kicks to set up the United States' much-anticipated quarterfinal rendezvous with the hosts.

The tense match was knotted at 1 until Rapinoe's second penalty put the defending champions ahead in the 75th minute.

"I think we showed just a lot of grit and experience, to be honest, in this game," Rapinoe said. "Obviously as we get into these knockout rounds it's more stressful, there's more pressure, the games are more intense. Every team lifts its level."

Rapinoe's first came in the seventh minute to the cheers of the U.S. supporters melting in temperatures that reached nearly 90 degrees at the Stade Auguste-Delaune. They were quieted a short time later when Jennifer Hermoso tied it up for Spain with the first goal the Americans had allowed in France.

Video review was used to confirm a foul on Rose Lavelle that gave the pink-haired captain the game-winner, spoiling Spain's spirited effort in its first knockout-round appearance at a World Cup.

The three-time World Cup winners now head to Paris to face France on Friday night. The French defeated Brazil 2-1 in extra time Sunday night, with Amandine Henry scoring the game-winner in the 107th minute.

"I think this is the game that everyone had circled," Rapinoe said, referring to France. "I think it's going to be a great match. I hope it's wild and crazy, I hope the fans are crazy and there's tons of media around it and it's just a big spectacle. I think this is incredible for the women's game, when you have two heavy hitters meeting in the final knockout round."



AP

United States' Alex Morgan, right, duels for the ball with Spain's Virginia Torrecilla during the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Spain and United States at Stade Auguste-Delaune in Reims, France, Monday, June 24, 2019.

The game at the home of Paris Saint-Germain has been anticipated since the tournament draw in December. France is vying to become the first nation to simultaneously hold both the men's and women's World Cup titles. The French men won in Russia last year.

The United States skated through its group with a stage record 18 goals. The team also didn't concede a goal in the group stage for the first time at a World Cup.

Until Monday, the Americans had not allowed a goal in eight straight competitive matches dating to the 2016 Olympics, outscoring opponents 44-0. It was the first goal the United States had allowed this year since a 5-3 win over Australia in an April friendly.

"This tournament isn't supposed to be easy and Spain was a great team," midfielder Samantha Mewis said. "I think these are the kinds of things that let us know that we're strong and that we can grind through something. So I think we're gonna take a lot from this and it gives us a lot of faith in ourselves."

La Roja had not scored in its previous two games but still finished second in its group to Germany to get the matchup with the Americans.

The U.S. and Spain last met in a friendly in Alicante in January, part of a European exhibition trip for the United States. Christen Press scored the lone goal in a 1-0 victory. That match was a confidence-booster for No. 13 Spain because it was able to hang with the world's top-ranked team. Spain's profile on the international stage has grown under coach Jorge Vilda, who took over following the team's World Cup debut in 2015. Spain won the 2017 Algarve Cup and last year won the Cyprus Cup.

Spain pushed the U.S. hard Monday.

"I actually think we deserved it more, but you know sometimes football is like that. I'm so proud of the team," Spain midfielder Vicky Losada said. "I'm so proud of the effort of the team and I think now we have to think about it, and think about the future, which I think is going to be so good."

Rapinoe's first penalty kick was the result of Maria Leon's tackle on Tobin Heath after a pass from Abby Dahlkemper.

Less than three minutes later, goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher's pass to Becky Sauerbrunn was stripped by Lucia Garcia and the ball wound up at the feet of Hermoso, who sent her shot from the penalty arc into the top right corner. It was Hermoso's third goal of the tournament to lead Spain.

Alex Morgan was set to take the penalty after Lavelle was tripped up by Virginia Torrecilla, but after the review Rapinoe stepped forward and slotted the ball just under the outstretched arm of Spain goalkeeper Sandra Panos.

Sauerbrunn was grateful.

### Sweden 1, Canada 0

Janine Beckie's penalty miss proved costly as Stina Blackstenius' clinical second-half strike sent Sweden into the Women's World Cup quarterfinals courtesy of a 1-0 win over Canada.

Blackstenius scored what proved to be the decisive goal after 55 minutes in Paris with what was her side's first shot on target of the match.

Canada was handed a lifeline soon afterwards when Kosovare Asllani was called for the penalty after a VAR review, yet Beckie saw her spot-kick saved superbly by Hedvig Lindahl.

Sweden will now meet Olympic champions Germany in the quarterfinals in Rennes on Saturday, in what will be a repeat of the showpiece fixture from Rio 2016.

Both sides had finished second in their respective groups with six points apiece and there was little to separate them in a first half in which defenses dominated.

Canada had the better of the possession in the opening period but was guilty of being wasteful with its final ball - Houston

See US on Page 26

## Column: France 3-for-23 versus US

**REIMS, France**—Good for fans, a bummer for the World Cup.

The U.S. women will play France in the quarterfinals Friday, a game that's been hotly anticipated since the draw in December.

"Hopefully a complete spectacle. Just an absolute media circus," Megan Rapinoe said, delight in her voice, after the U.S. women advanced with a 2-1 win over Spain on Monday.

"I hope it's huge and crazy. That's what it should be. This is the best game, this is what everybody wanted."

The only bad thing about it is that it's happening two games too early. Either the favorites or the hosts will be going home well before the July 7 final in Lyon.

Blame that on the lopsided draw, which has the teams ranked No. 1 (United States), No. 3 (England) and No. 4 (France) on the same side of the bracket.

But that's griping for the weekend. In the meantime, enjoy the matchup because it's going to be a good one—and it got even more intriguing after the teams played an exhibition in Le Havre in January.

France has beaten the U.S. just three times in its previous 23 meetings, but two of those wins have been in the past three games. That includes the 3-1 victory in January, when Kadidiatou Diani had two goals.

Only Mallory Pugh's goal in the closing seconds of the game kept the Americans from being shutout. The loss ended the U.S. women's 28-game unbeaten streak, which dated back to 2017.

But the Americans have cautioned against reading too much into that game. It was effectively at the beginning of its World Cup buildup, and coach Jill Ellis rested Rapinoe and fellow starters Tobin Heath and Julie Ertz. Kelley O'Hara also missed the game after having ankle surgery three months earlier.

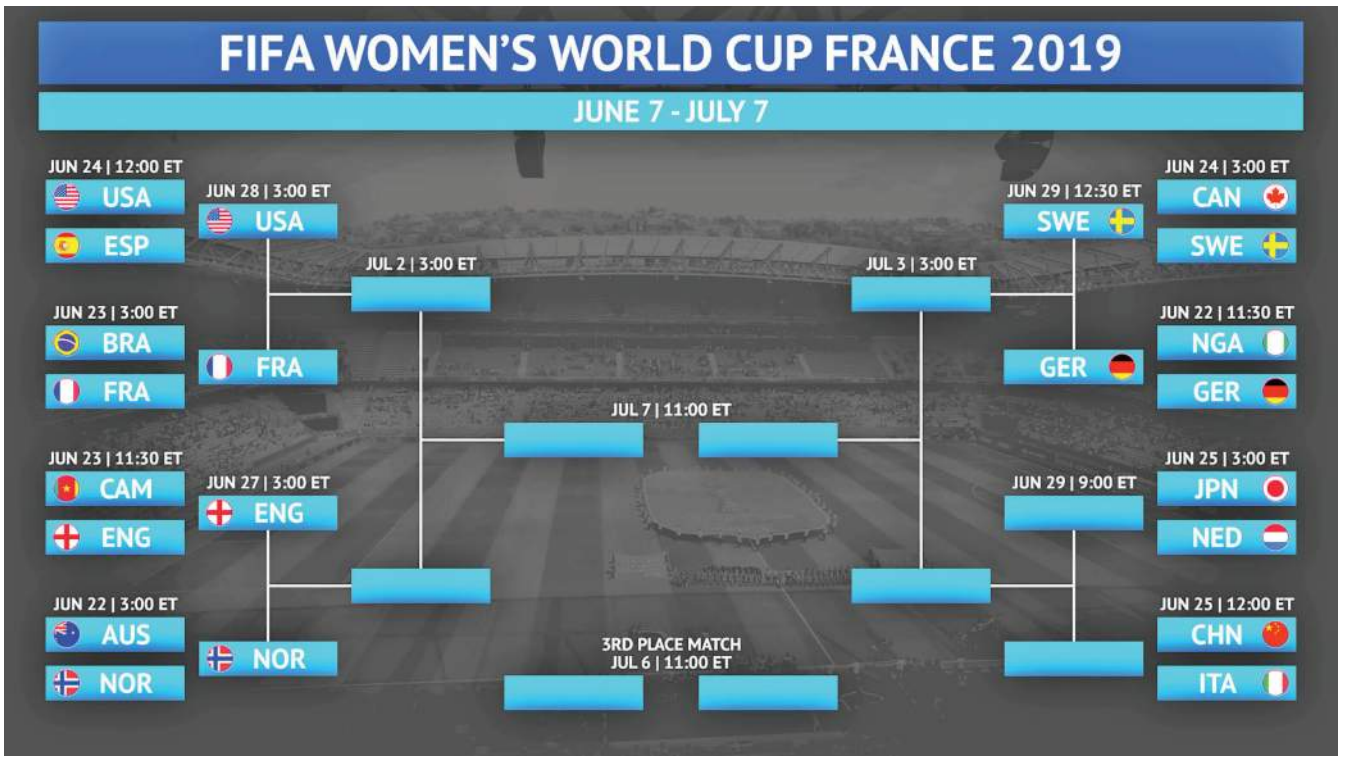
"I'm not worried," Ellis said after the game. "We know who we are and what we can do."

And, indeed, the U.S. women looked like the strongest team during the group stage with a record 18 goals and three shutouts. They weren't nearly as sharp in their Monday, but that just makes Friday's game more compelling.

France looked every bit the U.S. equal in its opener, playing with poise, confidence and not seeming at all daunted by the lofty expectations on it in a 4-0 dismantling of South Korea. But the knock on France has always been its inability to handle pressure.

It has never advanced beyond the semifinals at a World Cup or an Olympics, and the last time it got that far was seven years ago. At the European championships in 2017, Les Bleues finished second in a group that also included Austria, Iceland and Switzerland—not exactly powerhouses in women's soccer, those three. Though they made the knockout rounds, they made a quick

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Teary-eyed Giannis wins MVP honors

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

US survives scare from Spain to advance

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# NMI's Sappa reaches semis




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gabriel Junior Sappa, kneeling second left, joins his teammates and coach Ron Olopai for a group photo during the opening ceremony for the 2019 Oceania Athletics Championships last Monday at the Townsville Sports Reserve in Queensland, Australia.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Gabriel Junior Sappa qualified to the semifinals of the 100m run event in the 2019 Oceania Athletics Championships after finishing third in one of the preliminary races yesterday at the Townsville Sports Reserve in Queensland, Australia.

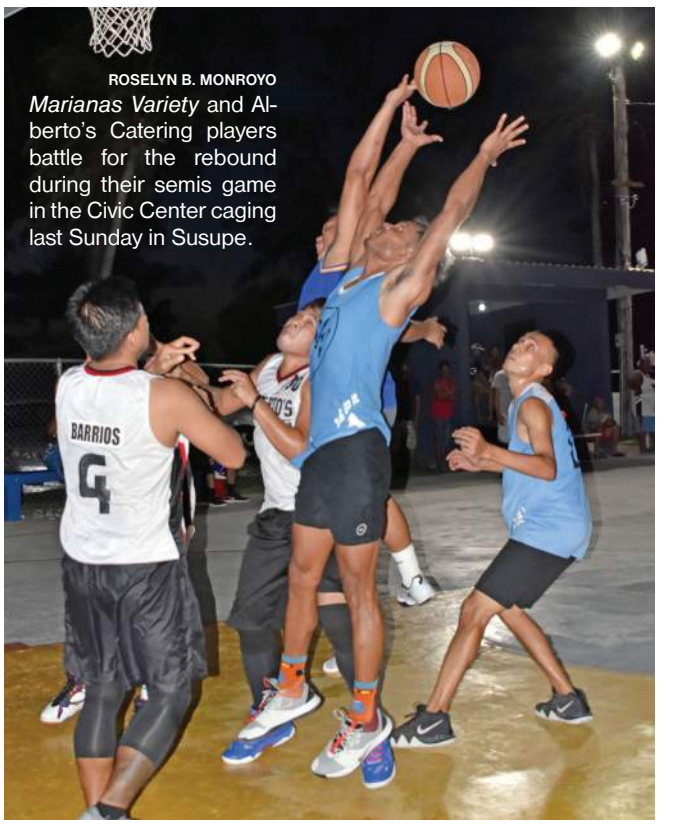
The sprinter was on Heat 5 of the qualifying runs in the men's senior division and timed in at 11.80 seconds to rank third in the group behind Australia's Jake Doran (10.67 seconds) and New Zealand's Joseph Millar (11.26 seconds). Sappa defeated Nauru's Olimac Scotty (11.91 seconds), Guam's Paul Dimalanta (13.01 seconds), and the Solomon Islands' James Brock Mebupe (12.05).

The Commonwealth bet, who will also compete in the 200m run, will race in the semifinals this morning, while the medal event is scheduled in the evening. Sappa is one of the 24 runners who will vie for the eight finals berths. Fiji's Banuve Tabakaucoro led the semis qualifiers list after timing in at 10.61 seconds on Heat 4. Other heat top placers were Australia's Jack Hale (10.84 seconds/Heat 1); New Zealand's Edward Osei-Nketia (10.69 seconds/Heat 2); and Samoa's Kelvin Masoe (10.75 seconds/Heat 4).

Meanwhile, Zarinae Sapong also raced in the preliminaries of the women's senior 100m and submitted 13.31 seconds. She was on Heat 2, which was won by New Zealand's Zoe Hobbs (11.81 seconds). The Kiwi made it to the medal round along with fellow New Zealand runners Georgia Hulls (12.01 seconds) and Brooke Somerfield (12.13 seconds), Australia's Naa Anang (11.89 seconds), Papua New Guinea's Toea Wisil (11.95 seconds) and Leonie Beu (12.42 seconds), Regional Australia's Kayla Montagner (12.64 seconds), and Fiji's Heleina

See NMI on Page 26

## Lakay, *Marianas Variety* clinch finals berths



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

*Marianas Variety* and Alberto's Catering players battle for the rebound during their semis game in the Civic Center caging last Sunday in Susupe.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Lakay and *Marianas Variety* will be playing in the finals of their respective groups in the 2019 Civic Center Basketball League after prevailing in the semis matches over the weekend in Susupe.

Lakay advanced to the championship game in Group B after stunning the then unbeaten Real Deal last Saturday, 77-68, while *Marianas Variety* earned a finals ticket in Group A following a 78-71 triumph over Alberto's Catering last Sunday.

The No. 6 seed *Marianas*

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## TSL Foundation supports Team CNMI

The Tan Si Lin Foundation has sponsored the parade and walking uniforms of Team CNMI that will compete in the 2019 Pacific Games next month in Apia, Samoa.




The TSL Foundation, the charitable arm of TanHoldings, is donating two sets of uniforms per delegate (athletes and officials). The uniforms are blue in color with the CNMI flag printed on the back and the Northern Marianas Sports Association and 2019 Pacific Games logos on the front.

"The Tan Siu Lin Foundation congratulates all the athletes and officials who have been selected to represent our islands to the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa. We are looking forward to seeing

See TSL on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The front and back design of Team CNMI's parade and walking uniforms for the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.